



BRICKSTONE | FOUNDATION | HOME | MEADOWS

July 13, 2021

Dear St. John's Residents and Family Members,

As the community rates of COVID-19 infection decrease, we are seeing visible and much anticipated signs of a return to normalcy in many facets of our lives. A most recent change to visitation guidelines received last week from the New York State Department of Health, provides for equally exciting and welcome changes to some of our current visitation guidelines during non-outbreak periods, which is defined as no active cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff members.

We hope to provide clarity regarding which updates to visitation, as outlined in the newly released guidelines, impact your visits to loved ones at St. John's Home. Please refer to the outline below when planning a visit to St. John's Home residents. However, it is important to note that these updates are subject to change and/or could return to previous levels of restriction in the event of an outbreak.

Screening

- **All visitors**, regardless of vaccination or testing status, **must screen** before visiting with any residents.

Masking

- **All visitors**, regardless of vaccination or testing status, **must wear a face mask** while in the building or while visiting in outside areas.
- Children over 2 years old will be required to wear masks.

Testing

- Visitors will be offered testing when available.

General Visitation

- Individual visitors will no longer be required to pre-schedule their visits through Calendly.
- Visitation is allowed 7 days/week from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Visitation outside of these hours must be prescheduled.
- Visits taking place in a resident's room are limited to 2 visitors at a time.
- No more than 4 people (including residents) may be in a resident room at a time for visit in order to maintain social distancing.
- Visitors will be allowed to eat and drink with the resident they are visiting, provided they maintain social distancing as appropriate and replace their masks when they are done eating.

You may also be aware of recent media coverage discussing the need for a vaccination booster for those individuals that received the Pfizer vaccination more than 6 months ago, which includes residents and staff members who participated in the initial rounds of vaccination clinics at St. John's. St. John's continues to operate under the guidance of federal and state governing bodies. At this time, there has been no information released from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health regarding the need for booster vaccinations among nursing home residents and staff members. The following statement released by the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration may be of further help to you:

Americans who have been fully vaccinated do not need a booster shot at this time. FDA, CDC, and NIH are engaged in a science-based, rigorous process to consider whether or when a booster might be necessary. This process takes into account laboratory data, clinical trial data, and cohort data – which can include data from specific pharmaceutical companies, but does not rely on those data exclusively. We continue to review any new data as it becomes available and will keep the public informed. We are prepared for booster doses if and when the science demonstrates that they are needed.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement safe visitation practices in protection of residents, staff members, and visitors.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Embrace Living

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