

April 2, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Friends of Saint Mary's Home of Erie,

We continue to make every effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As you know, we have enacted strict precautionary measures and have been assessing and updating our preparedness plan. Information is changing daily. As we work to provide a safe and healthy environment for our residents and staff, we wanted to notify you of the following measures we will be adding:

- **Employee Face Masks:** Effective April 6, 2020, all employees will be required to wear a face mask when working in accordance with guidance from The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). This mandate is to help prevent the unknown spread of the virus and to protect vulnerable residents and caregivers from unknown exposure.

We want to be clear that the wearing of masks is an additional precautionary measure that is part of our infection prevention efforts. The masks do not imply we have an active case of COVID-19 within our facilities. At this time, there are no known cases of COVID-19 among our staff or residents.

At this time, we cannot use unregulated medical items such as homemade masks. However, we are truly grateful for the efforts of the community and all the ways they are coming together to support one another.

- **Easter Baskets and Gifts:** We request that families and friends do not drop-off Easter baskets and gifts for loved ones. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, to limit risk of the virus entering our building, we stopped accepting in-person deliveries/drop-offs of food, cards, books, magazines and laundry. Families are encouraged to send any items for loved ones through the USPS Mail, FedEx or UPS. We are accepting florist deliveries, both local and through the mail system.
- **No Window Visitations:** Families and friends will not be permitted to visit at resident windows. We have received reports of individuals attempting to remove screens and standing outside and looking through the wrong windows. This creates a huge security and privacy risk. We understand how difficult the no visitation policy is, but we must put the safety of our residents and staff first. If you need help communicating with your loved one, we encourage you to make an appointment so that you can video chat.

We understand how difficult and uncertain of a time this is for residents and family members, but these actions are necessary to protect the seniors in our care and the employees who care for them.

As always, the needs of our residents and families are important to us. Family members who have questions or concerns regarding their loved one may contact the Social Services Department at their campus by calling:

Saint Mary's East: (814) 451-1302

Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge: (814) 451-5302

As a reminder, updates are also being shared on our website at [www.stmaryshome.org](http://www.stmaryshome.org) and periodically via email communications. If you would like to receive updates via email, please send your contact information to Emma Toner at [etoner@stmaryshome.org](mailto:etoner@stmaryshome.org).

We are grateful for the community's understanding, cooperation and trust. Please continue to do your part by following the recommendations from public health officials. We will continue to be in communication and will keep you informed as the situation evolves.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen L. Bonace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allen" and last name "Bonace" clearly legible.

Allen L. Bonace, MSN/MBA, RN, NE-BC, NHA  
President/CEO