



SAINT MARY'S AT ASBURY RIDGE  
SAINT MARY'S EAST

*This communication was sent in an email on January 8, 2021.*

## **Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #42**

Good Afternoon!

The first COVID-19 vaccination clinics have successfully taken place at both Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge with over 450 employees and residents inoculated. The second clinic – where residents and employees will receive their second dose of the vaccine or have the opportunity to receive their first dose – will occur on January 20<sup>th</sup> at East and on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Asbury Ridge. Two weeks after the second dose, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is shown to be 95% effective. Since beginning vaccinations, Saint Mary's has not had to report any adverse events or reactions associated with the COVID-19 vaccine. We continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others from possible severe illness.

Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge currently has zero (0) active COVID-19 cases among residents and employees. For the past two weeks of testing, no new cases have been identified. The COVID-19 red zone has been dismantled and the units are once again considered green zones.

At Saint Mary's East, there are three (3) active cases among residents and eight (8) active cases among employees. Testing this week identified one (1) new resident case and two (2) new employee cases but overall new cases continue to decrease which is an encouraging trend.

So, with cases decreasing and our campuses on what seems to be a promising path, what does this mean? The first thing to keep in mind is the Erie County positivity rate. This number impacts restrictions and plays a part in our reopening plan. Currently, CMS is reporting a positivity rate of 15.9% which means that we still cannot permit visitation nor outings and that we must continue to test twice per week. For visitation to resume, two requirements must be met including a county positivity rate below 10% for 14 days and 28 days of no positive cases in the building.

However, because Asbury Ridge has not had a positive case for two weeks, they are able to enter into a modified step two version the reopening plan. If you recall, step two allows for limited forms of small group activities and communal dining. The outdoor visitation previously permitted in this step cannot be permitted at this time due to the county positivity rate addressed above and weather concerns. If East can follow in the footsteps of Asbury Ridge, it is likely they may also re-enter this version of step two in the near future. Right now, there are no hard dates for when we expect visitation to resume as we can't predict the rise and fall of the county positivity rate. When lobby visitation does resume, it will likely continue in a similar manner as before. We will be sure to let you know when this time approaches as we understand how anxious you must be to visit with your loved one.

I hope the New Year is treating you well. Thank you!