



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

*This communication was sent in an email on October 2, 2020.*

### **Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #29**

Good Afternoon!

Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge remain free of COVID-19.

Earlier this week we conducted another round of COVID-19 testing on all of our employees – about 470 individuals across both campuses. **All of the test results were negative!**

As long as the positivity rate in Erie County remains below 5%, Saint Mary's will test employees on a monthly basis. We plan to conduct testing again on employees around middle to late October. Currently the Erie County positivity rate according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is 1.8%.

As we continue with our gradual re-opening, the Activity Departments are happy to offer a slightly wider range of activities to keep residents engaged. Even so, keep in mind these activities are still conducted on a limited basis and with a number of precautions in place. On the activity calendars for October there is a mix of some favorite group activities like trivia, art class, bingo and other games, the bookmobile, snack carts (including milkshakes and root beer floats – yum!), patio time when the weather is nice, manicures and even some scenic van rides! In addition to using the activity areas again for group activities, the Activities Department staff also continues to incorporate meaningful one-on-one visits with residents in their rooms and virtual visits with families. We hope that a return of some activities will help provide a small sense of normalcy to our residents and give them more opportunities for safe socialization.

Looking ahead, it is likely that both the flu and COVID-19 will continue to spread this fall and winter. The flu vaccine will play an important role this year in preventing illness. As we do every flu season, Saint Mary's will be administering the flu vaccine to all consenting residents and employees. We plan to start this process next week.

Some other exciting news...Saint Mary's Home of Erie is now on Facebook! We are happy to provide families and our community with another way to connect with us, especially during this difficult time. We encourage you to like our page here – [Saint Mary's Home of Erie](#) – so that you can stay up-to-date and follow along with life at Saint Mary's.

Have a great weekend!