



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

*This communication was sent in an email to Asbury Ridge Families on November 24, 2020.*

### **Update on COVID-19 Cases at Asbury Ridge**

Good Morning,

I am providing an update directly to Asbury Ridge families in response to the increase in positive cases identified on Monday, November 23. Yesterday, eighteen (18) new residents and (6) new employees tested positive for COVID-19. Of these residents, seventeen (17) were located in Skilled Nursing and one (1) in Residential Living. This brings the active case total to thirty-four (34) individuals at Asbury Ridge. The increase in positive cases correlates with the sharp rise in the positivity rate of Erie County and the nation. Remember that as positive results are reported it does not always mean it is a new exposure but rather a result of initial exposure that can take up to two weeks to appear.

As a result, we have converted the entire Skilled Nursing portion of our facility into what is called a "red zone". What does it mean to be a red zone? Zones (green, yellow and red) are terms used by the Department of Health to indicate where residents are cohorted based on the level of exposure and risk. We are treating all residents in Skilled Nursing as if they are positive. We have assigned employees (including nursing, maintenance, housekeeping and dietary) to the red zone to avoid crossover to other units and limit exposure of other staff and residents in the buildings. Employees working in this area are receiving lunch in this zone and no unauthorized personnel can enter this zone. It also means that all employees working in this zone are provided with full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as isolation gowns, gloves and of the course the face masks and face shields already being worn.

As you know, we are continuously monitoring all residents and staff for symptoms. Ongoing testing will continue as required. It is our goal to remain transparent as we have been in sharing information, while respecting the privacy of our residents.

We understand this news is concerning. We are all aware of how susceptible the elderly are to this virus and we are taking all necessary precautions and working relentlessly to stop of the spread.