



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

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Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #39

Good Morning,

At **Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge**, testing this week identified three (3) new employee cases and four (4) new resident cases. While a number of previously identified cases remain active, we are starting to see recovery of some employees and residents. The majority of the active cases remain in Skilled Nursing and are isolated to the COVID-19 Zone on Unit E, with only two (2) of the active cases from residents in Residential Living.

At **Saint Mary's East**, testing this week identified eight (8) new employee cases and ten (10) new resident cases. Similarly, at East, a majority of the active cases are among Skilled Nursing residents, but about half of the new resident cases were identified among residents of the Gallagher Center. Positive residents continue to be transferred to the isolated COVID-19 Zone. Separate areas have been established within the Zone to care for the needs of each resident. There are currently zero (0) cases among residents in Residential Living.

We are saddened to share that you may notice for the first time that four (4) deaths have been added to the case status report found on our website. Any death that occurs among a resident who has also tested positive for COVID-19 is reported in this number.

The Erie County positivity rate reported by CMS has reached 14.2%, surpassing the next threshold of 10% that requires additional action on our part. This means that Saint Mary's will be increasing our testing to twice per week beginning next week. It also means that even if Saint Mary's has no positive cases, lobby visitations cannot resume until Erie County drops below 10%.

Saint Mary's is also making preparations for the distribution of an approved COVID-19 vaccine. I shared a few weeks back that Saint Mary's is participating in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program to aid in managing vaccination efforts. We have been assigned to work with Walgreens as our healthcare partner in administering the COVID-19 vaccine once it is available. The first step in this process will be receiving consent. There are still a lot of unknowns but we will be providing more information to families and residents about this process in the coming days and weeks. In the meantime, frequently asked questions about the vaccine can be found here on both the [CDC](#) and [Walgreens](#) website.

Thank you.