



SAINT MARY'S AT ASBURY RIDGE

*This communication was sent in an email on December 3, 2021.*

**Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #75**

Hello all,

Saint Mary's has been continuing to conduct outbreak testing as a result of additional employees testing positive for COVID-19 since our last update. No residents have tested positive. We will continue to conduct testing until no new cases are identified. The Erie County positivity rate continues to climb and is now above 19%; the transmission rate remains at the highest level.

Please remember that while visitation remains open for all residents at all times, visitors should be aware of the risk of contracting COVID-19 when entering the building during an outbreak. To continue to keep our community safe, the core principles of infection prevention are essential and are a requirement for all in the building. Let's quickly review them: wearing a facemask covering the nose and mouth at all times whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, using frequent hand hygiene, maintaining physical distancing of six feet, limiting travel through the building, being screened upon entry and using good judgement about not visiting if you are sick, have tested positive or have been exposed. Visitors who do not comply may be asked to leave.

In regards to the vaccine mandate, a federal district court recently issued a nationwide preliminary injunction placing a temporary hold on the enforcement of the CMS vaccine mandate for healthcare workers that was set to begin next week. As a result, and until a further ruling is issued, Saint Mary's will continue to allow unvaccinated employees to work after December 5<sup>th</sup>. We will proceed with reviewing requests for religious exemptions and medical accommodations so that we are prepared if the injunction is lifted but nothing will be enforced at this time. The timing of the court proceeding is unknown; it could be a matter of days, weeks or months before we know more.

A reminder that with the holidays upon us, certain Life Safety regulations limit what decorations are acceptable. To help ensure that residents can enjoy the decorations they receive please be aware that we cannot accept real Christmas Trees or fresh cut pine arrangements/wreaths and that any artificial décor must have a tag stating the item is fire retardant while lights should have a UL tag. No candles or extension cords, surge protectors or adapters are permitted.

December Activity calendars and the menu for next week to follow.

Thank you!