



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

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

Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #46

Good Afternoon!

Last week, there were no new cases of COVID-19 identified at either Saint Mary's East or Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.

However, as a result of today's routine testing, Asbury Ridge has so far identified one (1) new employee case of COVID-19. Testing has not yet concluded. Asbury Ridge is continuing to halt reopening and must achieve 14 days of no new cases before it can re-enter step two.

Saint Mary's East has been in step two and will be transitioning to step three. The three-step plan for reopening is outlined for each campus in the Reopening Plan documents available on our website, originally shared back in August of 2020. Step two allows for limited group activities, communal dining and the return of beauty/barber services. Step three expands those offerings and allows for lobby visitations under certain conditions.

Regardless of which reopening step we are in, visitation cannot resume until two conditions are met including a county positivity rate below 10% for 14 days and 28 days of no new positive cases in the building. The Erie County positivity rate according to CMS has slowly been decreasing and last week was at 11.9%.

We understand that many families have questions about whether vaccination (among resident and/or visitors) will change the visitation policies. The vaccine is an important part of our efforts. However, from the very beginning we have said that the vaccine does not mean that we can immediately disregard other safety precautions. Saint Mary's Home of Erie is still required to follow the guidance issued from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. As of yet, there has been no guidance issued on vaccination and visitor restrictions in long-term care facilities from either regulatory groups. With COVID-19 still spreading in our community and nation, we must continue to follow all established guidance to help prevent further spread and to protect those around us. As mass vaccinations continue to rollout, we will let you know if and when guidance evolves.

Thank you!