

This communication was sent in an email on March 20, 2020.

Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #1

The situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve daily. As Erie County announces its first confirmed case, we want to reassure you that we are taking the necessary steps to prevent the spread of the virus. No known cases of COVID-19 have been reported at Saint Mary's East or Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.

- Over the weekend, we enacted a no visitation policy in accordance with the guidance released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This policy is in effect until further notice and includes all non-essential visits. We encourage the use of videochat technologies like FaceTime and Skype. If you need assistance connecting with a loved one, please let us know and we will work with you on ways you can communicate.
- Resident transportation is only being provided for medically necessary trips. All residents who leave the building will be screened upon return and required to undergo a five day quarantine. Additionally, all group activities and functions have been suspended. The Activities Department is working one-on-one with residents to provide alternate opportunities for enrichment.
- While we will not accept food deliveries, cards, books, magazines, or laundry at this time, we continue to accept flower deliveries and USPS mail, along with UPS and FedEx deliveries. We understand your desire to help brighten a loved one's day and we know that every act of kindness during this difficult time makes a difference.
- Staff is required to undergo screening at the employee entrance at the start of each shift. We continue to focus on conserving supplies and following strict infection control measures. Our team members meet daily to assess new developments, keep families informed, and to actively prepare to respond to this virus.

Yesterday, March 19th, was the Feast of St. Joseph – the day our employees would normally come together to celebrate our mission. While the celebration was cancelled this year, throughout this pandemic we have seen daily acts of our mission being brought to life. We are so proud of and grateful for our community of employees, residents and family members who have been supporting one another during this difficult time.

As we navigate the days ahead, we will continue to provide periodic updates about our response. Updates are also shared on our website at www.stmaryshome.org. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns in the meantime.

Stay well!