

This communication was sent in an email on April 24, 2020.

Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #6

Hello!

We continue to report no cases of COVID-19 among staff or residents at Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge. We know you may have heard there are nursing homes and personal care facilities in the Erie community with positive cases and we want to reassure you this is not Saint Mary's. We will let families and residents know in a timely manner if there is a positive case or if there are any new developments within our communities.

Regarding **masks**, residents are being provided with fabric face masks to meet the masking guidelines announced by Governor Wolf. Residents are required to wear a mask or face covering whenever they leave their room, such as for therapy or to simply walk down the hallway, and whenever someone else enters their room, such as housekeeping or nursing. If it is not appropriate for a resident to wear a mask or if the resident cannot put the mask on and remove the mask themselves, they are not required to follow this directive. We continue to require that all staff and essential vendors wear a mask at all times when in the building.

As new guidance has been released on mask usage, we can now welcome donations of fabric masks! We have some very generous community groups that have offered to sew masks. Fabric masks will be washed and provided to residents to use when they are leaving their rooms. Staff members who do not have a mask to use outside of work can also request a fabric mask for personal use.

We want you to be aware that per the **Opening Up America Again** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>) Guidelines, senior care facilities are to remain closed to visitors through Phase 1 and Phase 2. This also seems to be consistent with the early information released regarding the **Process to Reopen Pennsylvania** (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>), where restrictions would likely not be lifted until the Green Phase. This means that even if our region begins to re-open on May 8th, the visitor restrictions and strict infection prevention and control measures at Saint Mary's will likely remain in effect beyond that date. We understand that the visitation policy is difficult for families, but we want to prepare for you this reality.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation during this time – hang in there!