



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

*This communication was sent in an email on April 30, 2021.*

## **Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #58**

Hello,

Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge continues to report no new cases of COVID-19. Visitation and activities are continuing.

Unfortunately, Saint Mary's East has now identified three new employee cases of COVID-19 within the last week. Over the weekend on April 25, we were informed of an employee who was experiencing symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. On April 27, an additional employee tested positive for COVID-19. On April 28, a third employee tested positive. These cases appear unrelated from one another and from the outside vendor who previously tested positive. So far, there have been zero cases among residents.

As a result, the East campus is closed to all visitors until further notice, activities and communal dining are suspended, and testing has been increased to twice per week for both residents and employees. This will continue until we meet the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing and resume visitation. Depending upon last date of exposure, it is possible that certain units/areas may resume visitation, or a limited form of visitation, prior to other affected units. We will keep families informed on the visitation status of their loved one's area/unit as the process evolves.

In response to COVID-19 vaccinations, CMS and PA DOH have released updated testing guidance that affects fully-vaccinated individuals. It is no longer required for fully-vaccinated residents and employees to be tested routinely. Unvaccinated employees however must continue to be tested as before, with a frequency as determined by the county positivity rate. If the facility experiences an outbreak (one or more new cases) then testing of all employees and residents is required regardless of vaccination status.

CMS has additionally revised some of their guidance to reflect new recommendations from the CDC which will further lift certain restrictions for fully-vaccinated employees and residents particularly in terms of visitation, communal activities and dining. We expect that PA DOH will issue updated guidance to align with this but as they have not yet done so, we continue to follow the restrictions already in place.

It's important to remember that even as we see some restrictions lifted for fully-vaccinated individuals, these new cases are another indication of the virus continuing to spread in our community and reinforce the importance of following certain precautions. Thank you!