



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

*This communication was sent in an email on May 15, 2020.*

## **Saint Mary's& COVID-19: Update #9**

Good Afternoon!

A relatively brief update this week. There are currently **no** positive cases of COVID-19 at either Saint Mary's East or Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge. We are pleased to share there have been no new developments related to COVID-19 among residents or staff this week. Let's hope that with constant vigilance we can continue on this path!

Earlier this week, the PA Department of Health issued a Health Advisory regarding COVID-19 testing in Skilled Nursing Facilities. This advisory addresses universal testing of all residents and staff in every facility state-wide. This information is still in the early stages of being developed and has not yet been mandated. While we have many questions and are awaiting the release of more guidance, we are beginning to formulate a strategy for how universal testing would potentially occur at our facilities. Some questions we must consider are...*Will we able to acquire enough testing supplies? Who will perform testing and specimen collection? What PPE will be worn during testing and how will this affect our supplies? Will labs have the capacity to handle testing? How might this impact our staffing levels? How often will staff and residents need to be tested? Who will pay for these tests?* We will keep you updated as guidance is released from public health officials and as our plan develops. All current measures (visitor restrictions, wearing of facemasks, social distancing, etc.) will continue to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

As tomorrow ends the celebration of National Skilled Nursing Care Week we want to take a quick moment to recognize, once again, our amazing employees. While this year's celebration was much more subdued, we are no less grateful for our dedicated employees who bring our mission of *loving to care* to life.

We are also grateful for all of you. We know that having a loved one in a long-term care facility at this time can stir feelings of worry, anxiety and helplessness. We commend the many ways you have shown strength and grace through this crisis as we all work together to prioritize the health and well-being of the seniors in our care.

Enjoy your weekend and stay well.