

This communication was sent in an email on July 17, 2020.

Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #18

Hello all,

Hope you are well! We have wrapped up the fourth week of COVID-19 testing at Saint Mary's East and the first week of testing at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge. From this point on, the results from each campus will individually determine how that campus proceeds through the reopening steps.

Saint Mary's East: A resident tested positive today, July 17th, as a result of the fourth wave of testing at the East campus. The resident has been moved to the isolated COVID-19 area. This brings the total number of active cases at the East campus to three. Last week, during the third wave of testing, two employees tested positive. The employees are quarantined at home. This means Saint Mary's East must continue weekly mass testing for 14 days. The fifth wave of testing will occur on July 22nd and 23rd, followed by the sixth wave of testing on July 29th and 30th. We are still waiting for all results to come in from the fourth wave of testing.

Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge: Initial mass testing at Asbury Ridge concluded today. Asbury Ridge continues to have zero cases among residents and employees. However, these numbers could change as we await the return of the mass test results. If all results from initial testing at Asbury Ridge are negative, there will not be another round of mass testing at this time and the campus may proceed into Step 1 of the Department of Health's [reopening guidelines](#). If any results are positive, Asbury Ridge must continue weekly mass testing for 14 days.

Due to the volume of tests that require processing, we are beginning to see some strain on lab capacity. Results are being returned one at a time and it is taking anywhere from 3-6 days before all results are returned.

All of this testing (as well as the staffing and PPE supplies needed) brings forth a pressing issue – cost. When universal testing was mandated for all nursing homes, funding was not provided to help accomplish this task. Saint Mary's is working diligently to secure testing materials and supplies and we are paying for these unanticipated costs ourselves. One way you can help advocate for care providers like Saint Mary's is to urge Congress to create a testing fund for providers. Consider taking action now by joining Leading Age's [Act For Older Adults](#) campaign and by sending a message to Congress [here](#).

We appreciate all of your cooperation and support. Thank you!