



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

This communication was sent in an email on July 31, 2020.

Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #20

Good afternoon,

It's now two weeks after the most recent mass testing took place at both campuses and we have finally received all of the test results back. One employee at Asbury Ridge is being retested due to an inconclusive result, however, all other tests that we were awaiting from both campuses came back negative. The two employees and resident who most recently tested positive at Saint Mary's East have recovered. Both Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge are reporting zero active cases of COVID-19.

No further mass testing is taking place at this time due to lack of testing supplies and strained lab capacity. We continue to test based on symptoms and test residents who leave the building. When testing supplies are more readily available and labs can process results in a timely manner, it is likely that we will need to conduct another round of mass testing. We will let you know if that is the case.

After almost five months of facing the COVID-19 pandemic, nursing homes and long-term care communities like Saint Mary's are still confronting numerous challenges – and we're frustrated. We're told that seniors are a top priority in this pandemic and that testing is vital, but we can't get enough test kits. We're hearing that certain organizations and hospitals are getting tested daily and receiving results in less than 24 hours, yet nursing home results are delayed for weeks. We're still conserving our supplies and struggling to purchase adequate amounts of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) due to purchase allotments, price increases and increased demand. We're seeing firsthand the impact on families and residents who have not seen one another for months.

But we're also taking action. We are speaking up, voicing our concerns and urging others to put your loved ones and the people who care for them first. We're participating in regional conference calls with other healthcare providers, talking with representatives from LeadingAge, and applying for support from various funding sources.

Without resources we cannot meet the prerequisites of the state's reopening plan guidance and our current policies will remain in place. But when we do get to the point of moving forward with visitation, we want you to know what to expect. We are finalizing an outline of our formal reopening plan that we hope to have shared on our website next week. This will give you some insight as to how the process will work, what we need to accomplish in each step, and the ways in which we will continue to keep our residents and employees safe moving forward.

Stay well and as always, we're grateful for your patience and support!