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Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #22

Hi all,

We've made it through another week with no new major developments. Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge continue to report zero cases of COVID-19. This means we have not had to adjust our reopening dates yet. As of today (subject to change), Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge is on track to open for outdoor visitation on August 24th while Saint Mary's East is on track to open for outdoor visitation on September 8th.

Remember these visits will be by appointment, limited in length and in number of visitors. Please continue to be patient with us as we work through this process. Social Services will continue to provide you with details as they contact families for initial scheduling and we hope to share a few "what to expect" tips as we get closer.

I also wanted to touch upon a few areas that haven't been highlighted in a while:

- **Universal Testing:** As a reminder, we will not be conducting any additional mass testing of employees and residents at this time. We are currently testing residents who have left the building, are symptomatic or identified through contact tracing.
- **Supplies:** We are slowly building our supplies which is a positive sign. While we do have a sufficient stock there are certain items, such as disinfectants, which are difficult to obtain and other items, such as gloves, in which the price has nearly doubled. We are on allocation for isolation gowns and our face mask supply is adequate.
- **Weekly Team Meetings:** Our interdisciplinary team of managers continues to meet weekly regarding COVID-19. Both campuses participate in a video conference call and we discuss new information so that we can best coordinate our response.
- **RRHCP:** Saint Mary's met with LECOM Health who received funding through the Regional Response Health Collaborative Program (RRHCP) to assist long-term care facilities. We participated in a baseline survey conducted to determine our capabilities, supply levels, and infection control practices. They are capable of serving as an additional resource if needed.
- **Point-of-Care Testing:** Initiatives were announced a few weeks ago by the federal government to deliver rapid point-of-care testing machines to nursing homes across the country. Saint Mary's Home of Erie has not received one of these machines yet and while there is still some question as to their accuracy, the goal is to eventually have a machine in every nursing home nationwide. These machines are going to the most at-risk areas first – keep in mind there are more than 15,000 nursing homes in the United States.

Please know we're working hard to prepare for reopening and visitation while continuing to uphold the high quality standards you've come to expect from Saint Mary's. As always, if you have any questions or concerns we are here to help.

Thank you!