



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

This communication was sent in an email on September 25, 2020.

Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #28

Hello again!

There continue to be no known cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge or Saint Mary's East. We plan to conduct testing of all employees at the East campus next week on September 29th and all employees at Asbury Ridge on September 30th. We will keep you updated on the outcome.

Visits continue to go well and we thank everyone for your cooperation. We know many of you are wondering what comes next. Right now, we are not sure. Until we receive additional direction from the state and federal government, visits will carry on in this manner. Please continue to work with Social Services at the appropriate campus to schedule a visit. Sorry, we are still not able to accept drop-offs or exchanges of personal items. FaceTime and Skype visits continue to be available – just contact Activities if you want to connect!

I mentioned a few emails back that new guidance was released which introduced "Compassionate Caregiver Visitation." We have been working on a policy to safely address this. We know that prolonged isolation can negatively play a role in the mental, emotional and physical health of residents. In such instances where it is appropriate, we will work with families on compassionate caregiving to maintain or improve a resident's health status. Before compassionate caregiving is considered and incorporated as part of the residents care plan there must be two or more documented significant changes in a resident's condition. Our Director of Nursing and Unit Supervisors will work together with our medical director to determine when and for how long compassionate caregiving is appropriate. Caregivers will be required to obtain and show proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within the prior seven days, must adhere to all building policies and would be limited to two hours per day of caregiving. Note that these accommodations are different from compassionate end-of-life visitation, where additional exceptions are made for families.

As always, we are constantly assessing our policies and the latest information to make sure we are taking the best course of action. We will keep you informed of changes to the best of our ability and we are always here to answer your questions or concerns.

Take care!