



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

*This communication was sent in an email on September 4, 2020.*

## **Saint Mary's & COVID-19: Update #25**

Greetings!

Our efforts to keep Saint Mary's free of COVID-19 continue to be successful – Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge are both reporting zero cases. This bodes well for both campuses and for the advancement of our reopening plan.

**Saint Mary's East** is finalizing preparations to open for outdoor visitations (step two) on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Families visiting residents in Skilled Nursing and Residential Living are to arrive at the Reed Street entrance. Families visiting residents in the Gallagher Center will be using a different entrance, off the Gallagher Center courtyard, accessible from the employee parking lot on East 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff members and volunteers will greet visitors at your cars. If there is no one there when you arrive, please call the front desk at 459-0621 and someone will be there to screen you shortly.

**Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge** is getting ready to move visits inside (step three) on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. You can expect the indoor visits to be conducted in much the same manner as the outdoor visits. When you arrive, please continue to call the front desk at 836-5300. Screening will take place before you enter the building. We have moved the furniture in the main lobby to establish and make room for the designated visiting areas. Please know you will not be permitted to leave the visiting area – that means you will not have access to any other area of our facilities, including restrooms.

A reminder that Social Services is contacting families to schedule initial visits to ensure that every resident and family have an opportunity for a first visit. After that, families may call Social Services directly to schedule subsequent visits.

As for testing for COVID-19 in the future, we are continuing as directed by only testing those who have left the building, are symptomatic and/or have been identified through contact tracing. Discussion is taking place at the state and federal level regarding testing. We are awaiting official guidance on what to expect regarding if, how, and when testing will need to be conducted within our facilities again in the coming months. We also previously mentioned that the federal government announced they would be sending rapid point-of-care testing devices to every nursing home in the country. We have heard that all nursing facilities will have their device by the end of September. Some of our colleagues received their machine this week.

I hope you all enjoy your holiday weekend and I'll leave you with this gentle reminder – please continue to make smart decisions regarding social distancing, mask wearing and your activities, especially if you will be visiting with a loved one soon. We have precautions in place for a reason and all of us must continue to use good judgement to ensure that we keep our residents, employees and ourselves safe from COVID-19.

Thank you!