

**St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center**  
**Bishop Bradley Senior Living Community**  
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stfrancisrehabcenter.org



May 22, 2020

Hello Families,

This is a letter to keep you updated on things at St. Francis Rehab and Nursing Center. I am committed to keep you informed as things change here. Presently, we have no positive cases of Covid 19 in our center. I want to let you know that we have a new page added to our website that has a lot of information that will be helpful for you to review. It is easy to access by just clicking on COVID 19 updates on the home page. Please go to <https://stfrancisrehabcenter.org/covid-19-update/>

Through guidance of the NH Public Health Department we have completed obtaining Covid 19 testing specimens this afternoon for all residents, tenants and employees. They are anterior nares swabs. These will be sent to the public health lab today. We will need to wait a minimum of 3 days for the test results but it will likely be longer, possibly 7 days, as this lab is very busy. The goal stated by public health is to have all skilled nursing centers tested by the end of this week in the state of NH. Many of the facilities have already been done in the southern part of the state and now many of them are finishing this week. We will let you know the results of these tests when we receive them. This is baseline testing and then after this the guidance from public health and CMS is that employees will be tested on a weekly basis and there will be a % of residents who will be tested periodically as well. We are still waiting on this guidance for how often the residents will be tested.

I also want to remind you that we are prohibiting any non-essential items to come in to the residents as we know that the virus can live on objects for a short period of time and do not want to take the chance that it could be spread in this way. All laundry will be done by our laundry staff here. If there is an essential item that you would like to bring for your loved one it needs to be in a sealed container that we can disinfect and leave in our entry way for a period of time before bringing in the facility. We have made one change and are accepting floral deliveries. We will be cleaning and wiping down the vases.

We continue using cloth masks for our residents. The NH Public Health Department has requested that cloth masks be used on our residents while we are providing care for them and when they are out of their rooms. We have gotten many beautiful sewn masks delivered for use for our residents. We are very thankful for all of those who have donated these for us. As staff members we continue to wear disposable masks for all of our employees. The purpose of the masks is to have all of us keep our germs to ourselves. We are learning more about this virus and we know that it can be spread to others without showing any symptoms.

We continue to receive guidance from CMS, NH Public Health Department and Catholic Charities NH. I want to make sure that you know that we have received guidance to continue to be very strict in all the areas that we are doing such as social distancing, wearing masks and restricting visits. It is unlikely that these restrictions will be lifted for quite a period of time. This is due to the vulnerability of the people we serve in both the nursing center and the independent living.

While we know this is an incredibly challenging time for you and your family, please be assured that we remain committed to the care and support of your loved one here at St. Francis. Their safety, health and well-being remain our firm commitment.

We want to make sure that you are aware of the tablets that we have for you and your loved ones to connect to one another electronically. If you have any questions about this or have not yet taken advantage of this, please call Tasha Belair, Director of Social Services at 603-524-0466 ext. 313. Please call and let us know if you would like to schedule a window visit for your resident as well.

All programs and services at St. Francis remain fully operational and your loved one continues to receive the highest level of care.

We will continue to keep you updated as time goes on.

God bless,

Brenda Buttrick RN, LNHA

Adminstrator

