

July 10, 2020

Dear Family Member,

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 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/

We were able to start communal dining and activities yesterday. This is being done in a limited way following all the guidance from the NH Public Health Department and CMS. We are following protocols of social distancing and wearing masks to and from the Dining Room as well as proper cleaning. We can have up to 11 residents in our main dining room at one time following these protocols. We have started with the noon meal which seems to be the most popular. We have also added a fun activity for the residents to do just prior to the meal.

We are continuing our outdoor supervised social distanced visits with residents and families. These visits are going well and we are excited to be able to offer them to family members. Please call between 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday to schedule these visits. Please call and request Mindy Bowen at ext. 330 to request a visit. We are on week four of these visits and are now able to open up more than one visit per week to residents. Please know that we need to be strict with our protocols during these visits in order to keep everyone safe and you will have your temperature taken and be asked a series of questions at the time of the visit as well as a series of questions prior to the visit.

We will also continue with the window visits and the virtual visits using google duo and face time. Please call Tasha at ext. 313 to set up a visit per our usual routine for window visits or virtual visits.

We are now testing every employee every week and 10 % of our residents and tenants each week. This is being done with the guidance of the NH Public Health Department.

Please note that when a resident leaves the facility for a doctor's appointment or an emergency room visit we are placing the resident in a 14 day quarantine room which is a private room on our Lodge wing. The purpose for this is to avoid any potential exposure to others. We are trying to be as cautious as possible because we know that COVID 19 can spread very easily.

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 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.

I would like to remind you to please continue to wear your masks when you are in public and to practice social distancing. This is so important for your own safety as well as the safety of your families. As I go places it seems that many are not paying attention to this. We need to be the examples for others. Thank you very much.

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 will continue to keep you updated as time goes on.

God bless,

Brenda Buttrick RN, LNHA Adminstrator

