

St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
Bishop Bradley Senior Living Community
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May 5, 2021

Dear Residents, Family Members and Employees,

I am writing to give you an update on things that are happening at St. Francis. All of our test results have come back from the last two weeks of testing and all of our tests have come back negative. The NH Public Health Department has stated that we are no longer in response testing and we can proceed with our usual operations. We have also received new guidance over this last week on testing, visitation, dining and activities. This guidance is related to residents, family members and employees who have been vaccinated for Covid 19.

Based on this guidance we will be making the following changes at St. Francis.

Vaccinated employees no longer need to participate in regular surveillance testing. The majority of our employees are vaccinated so this will significantly reduce the amount of testing that we need to perform on a regular basis. Unvaccinated staff still need to be tested weekly or monthly depending on the positivity rate that we have in our community. If we have any employee with symptoms than we are required to test them. If we have any positive tests that we go back into response testing.

As part of our screening process visitors will be asked if they have been vaccinated. They are not required to provide proof of the vaccine. Vaccinated visitors and vaccinated residents may visit without masks and may be in close contact with one another. Masks are still required in the hallways to and from rooms or the front living room where most visits will continue to take place. In any instance where both vaccinated and unvaccinated staff, residents, or visitors are present, all those present must wear masks and socially distance with one another. Compassionate care visits in residents rooms will continue as they have been. Please continue to call Mindy to schedule your visits at ext. 330. You may also schedule window or electronic visits. Tasha can help with this at ext. 330. Please call and schedule your visits and please know there are visits available on Mother's Day.

Residents who have their meals in the dining rooms and participate in group activities will not be required to wear masks if everyone in the room is fully vaccinated. Social distancing will no longer be required as well. If any resident or employee in the room is not vaccinated then everyone in the room will be required to put on their masks and socially distance. Residents and staff members will still be required to wear their masks in the hallways. Dietary staff will now be able to serve the residents in the dining room and go to the resident rooms to take menu orders. All of the employees in our dietary department are vaccinated so this provides an added benefit for our residents. We are adding bus rides to our activities calendar for this month. Residents may also go to Mass in the chapel now which is offered by Father Dick Thompson on Wednesdays. We will also have communion services on Tuesday and Thursdays in the chapel.

We plan to review these changes on a Zoom call for all of you on Tuesday, May 11 at 6 pm. Please see the zoom invite attached to the e-mail.

I would like to remind you to please continue to wear your masks when you are in public, practice social distancing when you go out. Please be mindful, that our Lakes region and Belknap County has positivity rates that are considered This is so important for your own safety as well as the safety of your family. 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
Administrator