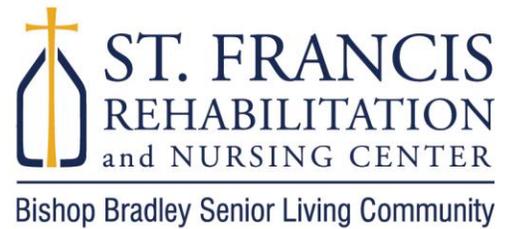


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May 14, 2021

Dear Residents, Family Members and Employees,

I am writing to give you an update on things that are happening at St. Francis. We have had a good week this past week and residents and tenants are enjoying the changes that we have put in place since last week based on the new guidelines. Thank you very much for joining us on our zoom call this week. We appreciate the communication and feedback from all of you. I wanted to review the newest guidance that we have to make sure that you are all aware of these changes.

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 must socially distance from 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. 313.

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 those who are not vaccinated must socially distance from the others. 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.

Residents are permitted to go on car rides with family members and visit in family members homes. The guidance around this is that the residents and family members should be vaccinated. We ask that you call 24 hours in advance for prescreening questions and be screened prior to taking your loved one out. This will begin this weekend and we are working on some guidelines for you to read and sign to be sure you are educated on the different guidelines related to this.

I also wanted to let you know that Tasha has given her notice and her last day at St. Francis will be May 27. We are sad to see her leave and we are actively recruiting her replacement. Cindy Edgecomb will be available on Tuesday and Fridays for the time being.

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 although the positivity rates are going down in our county we are still considered in substantial transmission. 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