

St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
Bishop Bradley Senior Living Community
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September 10, 2021

Dear Residents, Tenants, Family Members and Employees,

I am writing to you to give you an update on things that are happening at St. Francis. We finished our second round of testing for employees, residents and tenants this past week. All of our tests have come back negative except for one staff member that we are waiting results on. As you may have remembered from the letter that I sent last week, we had learned that we had one additional employee who tested positive last week. This employee is fully vaccinated. This employee did not work the same hours as the first employee who tested positive the week before. We feel that the two positive employee cases are unrelated to one another. As a result of this second positive, we are required by the NH Public Health Department to do an additional week of testing. This means that we will be testing all of our residents, tenants and employees for one more week. This will be done with PCR testing that will be sent to the NH Public Health Lab. We are planning to do the PCR tests this coming Sunday and Monday and will let you know the results of these tests as soon as we have them. We will not have community dining or activities during this time while we are testing for the next 7 days or so. Our family visitation needs to be done in a limited way over the next week. We have been directed that compassionate care visits may continue but need to be done in a limited way. They cannot be done as a routine. Some examples of why they can be offered are; to help a resident when they are first admitted to help them adjust to their new environment, to be with a resident who is terminally ill and close to the end of life, to console a resident who shows signs of depression or anxiety. Please continue to call Diane at ext. 300 to schedule your visits and keep in mind the guidelines that we have. You may also reach us to schedule window visits or electronic visits. Brandy can help with this at ext. 313 or Alex at ext. 338. We will continue to wear N95 masks and face shields. Based on test results they will give us further guidance on how to proceed. It is our hope that we will be able to open to visits starting the week of September 19 as long as we do not have any more positive covid 19 tests. We will keep you updated with any changes that happen.

I also wanted to let you know that we have continued with our new Mandatory Vaccine policy for all staff members this past week. We only have a small percentage of employees who do not have the vaccine. Effective September 13, 2021 all employees will be required to have at least their first dose of the vaccine and they will be required to be fully vaccinated by October 25, 2021. The only exception to this is if they have been approved for a religious or medical exemption through Catholic Charities NH.

I have had several ask me questions about the vaccine booster. At this time, I do not have much information to relay about the booster but I am sure I will in the coming weeks and I will keep you informed as I learn more about it and when we might offer it to our residents and employees.

The positivity rate of Covid 19 is going up in our county. Belknap County is considered in substantial transmission. I would like to encourage you all to wear masks when you are in a public setting. This applies even to vaccinated people due to the different variants that are being discovered.

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