

October 22, 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 have some very good news to share with you all. We finished receiving all of our test results back and they are all negative. This is our second round of testing. We have consulted with the NH Public Health Department and they have agreed to clear us to go back to more normal operations. This means that we can resume communal dining and activities. We can also go back to scheduled visitation.

All employees are required to wear masks and eye wear. This is due to the substantial transmission that is in the community.

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. If you would like, we would be happy to give you a rapid covid test prior to your visit with your loved one. It only takes 15 minutes and it can give you reassurance that you are not bringing the virus to your loved one without knowing it. 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 those that are not vaccinated must socially distance from one another. Compassionate care visits in residents' rooms will continue as they have been. **It is important that you schedule visits at least 24 hours in advance. We are still required to do the prescreening per CMS and the NH Public Health guidelines.** Please continue to call Diane to schedule your visits at ext. 300.

Residents who have their meals in the dining rooms and participate in group activities are not 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.

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. We are discouraging going out to restaurants with residents at this time. We can also accommodate guests who would like to have a meal with their loved ones as long as they are fully vaccinated. We cannot have guests eat in our main dining room yet but we can provide a private area where they can dine with their loved one.

We wanted to let you know that volunteers are now able to come in. They are required to be fully vaccinated. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer at St. Francis please call Alex at ext. 338. We would love to have more volunteers to visit with residents, help take residents

outside to enjoy the beautiful weather or help residents to attend more of the activities that are offered.

We also want to remind family members that when they bring in snacks/food for their loved one it should be in a container or bag that can be sealed to keep the food fresh and sanitary.

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