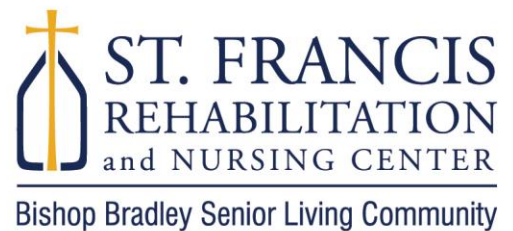


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October 29, 2021

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 completed our first round of testing this week and all of our results came back negative. We have already started our second round of testing and will finish this by midweek next week. If all of our test results are negative the earliest that we will be able to open to visitors will be Saturday, November 6 because we are required to wait 14 days from the last exposure per CMS guidelines. We also continue to follow NH Public Health Guidelines as well. The newest guidance states that we can test employees and residents who had close contact with the positive employee. We will not have community dining or activities until such time as we are allowed by the guidelines. Our family visitation needs to be done in a limited way over this period of time. 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 be wearing N95 masks and face shields or goggles. The test samples are sent out to the NH Public Health lab. Based on test results they will give us further guidance on how to proceed. We will keep you updated with any changes that happen.

I have had several ask me questions about the vaccine booster. At this time, we are working with our pharmacy to plan a vaccine clinic to give our residents and staff the booster. We hope to have this done soon.

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