

October 8, 2021



As we enter the Thanksgiving weekend, we have a lot to be thankful for at Saint Vincent's Nursing Home. We are thankful that the COVID-19 outbreak has been contained and did not spread. Although the outbreak will not be officially declared over until two incubation periods (28 days) since the last possible exposure, we are feeling more and more confident that we have been through the worst of it. We are thankful to the families of our residents who have been so supportive to the staff and the restrictions placed on their visits. We know this has been a very scary ordeal for everyone. We are thankful for our wonderful residents who have tried so hard to follow all the guidelines and have done so well following the directives from Public Health. We are thankful for our staff who choose to work at Saint Vincent's and continue to come to work during the uncertainty of a COVID-19 outbreak. Simply put, we are grateful to our Saint Vincent's Nursing Home family and look forward to the weekend with fewer restrictions in place.

There are a few changes in the Public Health guidelines. Some will stay the same, and other restrictions have been lifted. Any remaining restrictions will stay in place until the outbreak is declared over.

#### Residents:

- Happily, the dining rooms will be opened back up for the residents to use on all floors.
- Residents on units 2,4,5 and 6 can now go into the hallways for walks without wearing a mask.
- Residents on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be required to wear masks while in the hallway until the outbreak is over.
- Residents are not permitted to leave their units.
  - This means they are not able to go to the garden.
  - They are not able to go for a sightseeing drive, and they are not able to visit a family home.

#### Designated Caregivers:

- All Designated Caregiver visits will continue to take place only in the resident's room.
- Designated Caregivers are not permitted in the dining rooms.
- Designated Caregivers are not permitted to remove their mask for any reason. This means there will be no eating or drinking anything while in the building.
- Designated Caregivers to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> floors are no longer required to wear full personal protective equipment. They will be required to wear a mask only.
- Designated Caregivers to the 3<sup>rd</sup> continue to wear a mask and a face shield.
- Designated Caregivers are also encouraged to get asymptomatic testing done weekly.

#### Visitors:

- The only visitors permitted at Saint Vincent's for the duration of the outbreak are Designated Caregivers. All other visits will be on hold for the next two weeks.

Staff:

- Staff who work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will continue to wear a mask and face shield until the outbreak is over. All other staff have returned to wearing just the mask.
- We will continue to cohort staff to a specific unit as much as possible but staff will go to other units as needed.
- We have been swabbing the staff on the third floor everyday. This will change to twice a week for the next two weeks.
- All other staff are encouraged to go see Kathy for asymptomatic swabbing at least weekly.

The next update will be provided Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> unless there are changes.

Please let me know if there are any questions or if you have any comments or concerns regarding the outbreak. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Angela Berrette  
Executive Director