



April 2, 2020

Dear Resident, Tenant, and Family Members,

I'm writing this letter to give you an update on how we are doing at St. John's with regard to the COVID-19 virus.

First of all, we don't have a good way to communicate with families of residents and tenants. In order to establish a better means of communication we've added a COVID 19 button on the top of the front page of St. John's website. St. John's website address is: [www.stjohnsofalbertlea.org](http://www.stjohnsofalbertlea.org). Click the black banner at the top of the front page of the website to access:

- COVID 19 Updates
- Resident and Family Letters
- Links to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

As of the date of this letter, none of our residents or tenants have been diagnosed with the COVID-19. Hopefully, we can continue to keep this virus out of our buildings. In the event that a tenant or resident has a confirmed case of COVID 19, you will be notified by letter. We will also post a notice on the St. John's website.

The visiting restrictions that we have in place are helping to keep this virus out of our buildings. I know that the visiting restrictions are very difficult for residents, tenants and their families. The purpose of the visiting restrictions is to protect the people that live at St. John's and the staff that provide the daily cares and services. I would urge all families to continue with these restrictions until they are lifted by the CDC and the MDH. All it takes is one person to unknowingly introduce this virus into our buildings. I also want to thank people for complying with the visiting restrictions. The visiting restrictions are one of the most difficult aspects of confronting the COVID-19 virus in our nursing home and congregate housing settings.

In the event that a resident or tenant is dying, the person's spouse and adult children are allowed to visit. We only allow two visitors at a time. We cannot allow children under 18 to visit.

About three weeks ago, nursing homes and congregated housing apartments were advised by the CDC and the MDH to cease all group activities. We immediately cancelled Sunday Worship Services, all music programs, bingo games, etc. This was very difficult to do as we knew that residents and tenants would miss these types of gatherings.

In regards to precautions that we are taking with staff, all staff are screened prior to starting their work shift. If an employee has an elevated temperature, or if they have been in contact with someone that is being tested for COVID 19, or if they've been in contact with someone that tested positive for COVID 19, they are not able to work until we know more about their exposure. We've had two or three staff that

have been tested for COVID 19, but they did not test positive. An employee is not able to work until the test comes back confirming that they do not have the COVID-19 virus.

On March 31, we started issuing all St. John's staff homemade facemasks. The masks were made by staff and their family members, family members of residents, local churches, and friends of St. John's. Thank you to Christina Johnson and her Mom, Dixie Yost and her Mom, Kelli Schindler Nelson, Sara Rask, Robyn Hillman, Jeanie Herman, Donna Nelson and Concordia Lutheran Church Pickerel Lake. I can't express enough how much we appreciate having these masks for our staff – Thank You!

In closing...

St. John's has 310 employees and around 250 people that we serve. Everyone that lives at St. John's is considered high risk. Everyone that works at St. John's could be exposed to the COVID 19 virus. We are anticipating that we will have some very difficult days and weeks ahead of us. We can and will get through this. In the meantime, our staff will be doing everything possible to protect our residents and tenants, and each other. I would urge families to continue taking the following precautions to prevent or lessen the spread of the COVID 19 virus.

- Continue to respect the visitor restrictions.
- Wash your hands often and properly.
- Keep your environment as clean and sterile as possible.
- Physically keep 6 feet away from other people.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you have any signs or symptoms related to the COVID virus.

Lastly, I know that not being able to visit your spouse, mom, dad, friend or neighbor is extremely difficult. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cooperation and understanding during this very difficult time.

God Bless,

Scot Spates  
CEO / Administrator  
St. John's Lutheran Home

P.S. I know that Easter is going to be very different for all of us this year. I pray that you and your family are blessed with good health and embraced by God's love during the upcoming Easter season.