



March 16, 2021
COVID Update

Dear Residents, Tenants, and Families,

I have good news again this week. All of the employee COVID-19 tests from this Monday, March 14 came back negative! This is good news as it allows us to continue with visits from families and friends of the residents and tenants.

I'm happy to announce that we have made some changes to our visitor guidelines. Here are the major changes.

- ❖ Family and friend visits will not be suspended for the entire building in the event that a resident or employees test positive for the COVID-19 virus. We only need to suspend the visits in the wing or on the floor that COVID-19 was detected. For example, if a resident in Sheltering Arms tests positive for COVID-19, visits will only be suspended in Sheltering Arms, not the rest of the Luther Place Nursing Home. The same guidelines apply to the Fountain Lake Nursing Home and Assisted Living building.
- ❖ Family and friend visits are no longer limited to one hour. We have extended the visitation time to two hours. This makes the visit a little less rushed for people that have to drive a distance to visit.
- ❖ Residents and tenants that have been fully vaccinated do not need to be quarantined for 14 days if they leave the building to attend a family gathering or an outing. In the event that a family member that attended the gathering tests positive for the COVID virus, the resident or tenant will need to be quarantined for 10 to 14 days to protect everyone that lives or works at St. John's. Fully vaccinated means the person has had both doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine and 14 days have passed since the second dose.
- ❖ Residents or tenants that have been hospitalized will no longer need to be quarantined if they have been fully vaccinated.
- ❖ Lastly, the new guidelines allow for close contact (including touch) if the resident has been fully vaccinated.

Family and friend visitors are encouraged to call and make an appointment 24 hours in advance of the visit. There are two main reasons for making an appointment in advance of the visit. In the event that we need to suspend visits for a certain floor or wing of a building, we can notify visitors that visits have been suspended. Secondly, residents and tenants are only allowed two visitors at a time. We are trying to prevent an overlap of visitors where there are four or six visitors in a resident's room at the same time.

Twenty-four hours prior to your visit, please call the following numbers to schedule a visit.

- If you are visiting someone at the Luther Place site, please call 507-473-1016
- If you are visiting someone at the Fountain Lake site, please call 507-473-2446

When you call the above number to schedule a visit, please leave your name and telephone number, the name of the person you will be visiting, and the date and time of your visit. The receptionists will be checking the Visitor Voicemail throughout the day.

With the loosening of the visitation guidelines, it is still very important for all of us to take precautions to protect ourselves and others during a visit. The Minnesota Department of Health requires nursing homes and assisted living facilities to follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention. These precautions need to be taken even if the visitor and resident or tenant have been vaccinated.

- ❖ Screening before entering the facility
- ❖ Good hand hygiene
- ❖ Visitors and residents wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth
- ❖ Physical distance of at least six feet

Back on December 31, 2020 nursing home residents at St. John's received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. There were some frustrations that day, but many of us were sensing that this was a big day for the residents. It was the first step toward being able to safely lift some of the restrictions. I'm very happy for our residents, tenants, their families and friends. Restrictions are being carefully lifted, and resident and tenants are able to have much needed contact with their family and close friends again. Enjoy your visit!

God Bless and Take Care,

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

You'll find a *home* in our community.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN COMMUNITY • 901 LUTHER PLACE ALBERT LEA, MN 56007
PHONE (507) 373-8226 • FAX (507) 379-9506
WWW.STJOHNSOFALBERTLEA.ORG

