



September 15, 2020

Dear Residents, Tenants, and Families,

The St. John's Pandemic Committee has decided to suspend the Essential Caregiver visits due to the rising number of active Covid-19 cases in Freeborn County. We know how much the residents, tenants and families have enjoyed these visits, so this is a decision we did not want to have to make.

We currently do not have any residents, tenants, or staff that have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Our concern is that the number of people testing positive in Freeborn County is increasing. There are four nursing homes in Albert Lea and two of the homes have residents and staff that have recently tested positive for the COVID virus. As of last Friday, one of the nursing homes in Albert Lea had 12 residents that tested positive and 6 staff that tested positive.

This is so close to home and serves as a **WARNING** that this virus can easily get into any of our buildings and infect our residents, tenants and staff. It spreads like fire... easily, quickly and mercilessly. This is not something that is happening hundreds of miles away. This is happening in Albert Lea, and it is very concerning to us.

Our main goal is to keep the COVID-19 virus out of our buildings and away from our residents, tenants, and staff. By suspending the Essential Caregiver visits, we are trying to limit the number of people coming and going, and unintentionally or accidentally bringing this virus into the buildings.

We are still allowing window visits and the outdoor visits. In the event that we have a resident, tenant or staff test positive for the COVID virus, we will need to suspend these visits as well. Hopefully, the virus doesn't spread to the point where we have to do this.

Window visits are allowed seven days a week from 9:30am to 7:30pm. Please call the receptionist to setup the appointment.

Outdoor visits are allowed Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Again, please call the receptionist to setup the appointment.

All visitors need to be screened prior to an outdoor visit. Staff will do the screening and bring the resident or tenant to the visitation area. Please stay six feet away from each other during the visit. Please wear your mask throughout the visit. Staff will come to the visiting area after ½ hour and bring the resident or tenant back to their room or apartment.

Please do not do a window visit, or an outdoor visit, if you are not feeling well, or if you have any symptoms of being infected by the COVID-19 virus. The COVID-19 virus is very difficult for seniors to fight off.

Thank you for your understanding with regard to the suspension of the Essential Caregiver visits. I know that this is very difficult for residents, tenants and their families. Hopefully, we can stop or at least slow down the spread of this virus in Freeborn County.

Thank you,

Scot Spates