



**Monday Morning COVID Update**  
**Essential Caregiver Visits**  
**July 13, 2020**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) issued information on Friday afternoon in regard to “Essential Caregiver Visits.” The guidelines that nursing homes received from the MDH do not allow nursing homes to simply open their doors to all visitors. The MDH guidelines suggest that the resident would have one Essential Caregiver, but in some “unique situations” a resident may have more than one Essential Caregiver.

Nursing homes are required to develop policies and procedures for Essential Caregivers before the nursing home can begin to allow Essential Caregivers into the building. This includes everything from designating an Essential Caregiver to educating Essential Caregivers on infection control practices.

St. John’s has a Pandemic Committee that will be meeting this afternoon to begin discussion on policies and procedures for Essential Caregivers. In addition to developing policies and procedures, the MDH guidelines require that the resident have input regarding who will be their Essential Caregiver. In short, opening the doors to Essential Caregivers isn’t as simple as just flipping a switch – it will take some thought, planning and time.

I will plan on posting an update on the St. John’s website later this week:  
[www.stjohnsofalbertlea.org](http://www.stjohnsofalbertlea.org).

Sincerely,

Scot Spates