



March 12, 2020

Dear St. John's Resident, Tenants, and Family Members,

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently recommended that nursing homes restrict, limit, and discourage visitors from coming into the building due to the Coronavirus. The main concern is that a visitor could unknowingly bring the virus into the building. The virus would then likely spread to many of our residents. To protect our residents, we need to follow the CDC guidelines and begin restricting visitors immediately.

St. John's is limiting visitors to essential or urgent visits only. In the event that you need to make an essential visit, you must:

1. Be Feeling well
2. Have no signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
3. Not have visited a known Coronavirus hotspot within the United States, or traveled outside the United States in the last 14 days.
4. Have not been exposed to someone with confirmed Coronavirus or someone that is being tested for Coronavirus.

For essential visits at the Luther Place site you will need to enter through the main office entrance where the receptionist is located. You will need to answer the above four questions prior to entering one of the buildings where people reside. The chapel entrance and the side entrances to the nursing home will be locked so please do not go to these entrances.

All volunteer entertainment such as music programs will be cancelled. All residents and tenant outings will be cancelled. Sunday Worship Services may be cancelled in the future. We will reestablish these programs when it is safe to do so.

We are closely monitoring information and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Please understand that the guidelines can change very quickly from one day to the next. We will be incorporating recommendations from the CDC and the MDH as they become available.

Our staff is trained in infection control practices like handwashing and glove usage. We will continue to remind staff of the importance of using proper infection control practices during this Coronavirus outbreak. Because we are in the flu season in Minnesota, staff already have a heightened awareness of the risks posed to our residents and tenants of respiratory illnesses and the vital importance of effective infection control practices.

We do not have a confirmed case of Coronavirus at St. John's, or anyone being tested at this time. Our goal in implementing the visitor restriction is to try to prevent the Coronavirus from entering any of our buildings. I know that this puts our residents and their family in a horrible position. At the same time, it provides some hope that we can keep this virus out of our buildings and away from our residents, tenants, their families and friends and our staff. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Scot Spates
CEO / Administrator

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