



Date: May 15, 2020

### **COVID-19 Update**

Dear St. John's Residents, Tenants and Families,

#### **Resident, Tenant and Staff COVID Testing**

We continue to have residents, tenants, and staff that are being tested for the COVID-19 virus. COVID tests are ordered when a person has COVID symptoms such as a fever, or shortness of breath. We have not had any residents, tenants, or staff that have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus since the last update.

On May 14, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) began testing nursing home residents, tenants in assisted living settings and staff. Residents, tenants and staff throughout MN will be tested even if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms. We do not have a date for testing at St. John's, but it will likely be sometime in the next two weeks, possibly next week. Some people that are infected with the COVID virus do not have symptoms. For this reason, I think it's wise and proactive to test everyone that lives or works in nursing home or assisted living settings. This allows us to provide the necessary medical care that a person may need, and to isolate people that have the virus so that it doesn't spread to other people.

Tenants living in independent living settings, such as Waters Edge and Knutson Place Apartments, are not being tested during this first round of testing. Hopefully, they will be tested in the near future.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment or PPE**

Next week, direct care staff will begin wearing surgical facemasks. The Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health are recommending or requiring staff to wear surgical masks. The surgical masks serve as a barrier to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

#### **Father's Day Barbeque and Garden Party Cancelled**

The Father's Day Barbeque and the St. John's Garden Party will need to be cancelled this year –sorry.

In closing, as Governor Tim Walz begins to lift some of the restrictions throughout Minnesota, please keep in mind that social distancing, wearing a mask, and proper handwashing are still necessary to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As more people are out and about, this virus is more likely to spread. With the lifting of some of the restrictions, we all need to be extra diligent with taking precautions to protect the people that are most at risk.

Take Care and God Bless,  
Scot Spates