

COVID-19 Update
May 29, 2020



Resident, Tenant and Staff COVID Testing

We've had a number of residents, tenants and staff that have been tested for the COVID-19 virus and all have come back negative which is great news!

A priority for Governor Tim Walz is to have all nursing home residents, assisted living tenants and staff tested for the COVID-19 virus. We have not had any residents or tenants or staff recently that have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus so it is not urgent for us to do whole house testing at this time. I just want to give residents, tenants, and families a heads up that we may do whole house testing sometime in the future.

Beauty Shop and Fitness Center

The State of Minnesota has started to reopen businesses, fitness centers, barber and beauty shops, etc. Our residents and tenants are high risk individuals, so we need to be extra cautious with opening these services. As of the date of this update, we do not have permission from the Minnesota Department of Health to open our beauty shops yet. I have no idea when we will be able to open our beauty shops, but hopefully soon.

Window Visits

We have a number of residents, tenants, and their families that are doing window visits. I know that this isn't ideal, but at least it give the residents, tenants, and their families a means to connect other than just by phone.

Window Visit Guidelines

- Windows should remain closed. This prevents the virus from accidentally being spread through saliva that is expelled when talking to others. This is also why wearing masks when out in public is encouraged.
- Resident, tenant and families are encouraged to wear a mask when visiting.
- Some resident or tenants will need assistance. We encourage families to call before they visit. We discourage visits during meal times from roughly 11 am to 12 pm and 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Staff are very busy assisting residents during meal times.
- Residents living on the 2nd and 3rd floor of The Woodlands will need to do window visits in the chapel. Families should call ahead and staff will assist the resident to the chapel.
- Tenants on the 2nd floor of The Meadows can do window visit in that hallway between the reception desk and the entrance to The Meadows. Again, please call ahead if your family member needs assistance.

In Closing...

I know that we will all be happy when this is over and behind us. In the meantime, I just want to communicate that I also know that the visiting restrictions and the other restrictions are extremely difficult. I wish I could prop open our doors and tape a huge "WELCOME" sign on them. We miss seeing families, friends, pastors, volunteers and other visitors in our buildings. St. John's purpose is to serve the residents and tenants that live within the walls of our community, but our purpose is also to serve the family and friends of the residents or tenants. This is missing right now and it just doesn't feel right. Unfortunately, opening the doors would put everyone at high risk of catching this virus and this is the path that we are trying to avoid going down.

So far the restrictions have worked for us and we've managed to keep this virus out of our buildings and away from our residents, tenants and staff. I am so thankful for this. I look forward to the days when our doors are wide open, when there are sons and daughters visiting their moms and dads, when residents are gathered together listening to live music, or playing bingo. I know that these days will come back and for now this gives me hope.

Scot Spates
Administrator