

3/16/22

Dear St Ann's Family Member,

We are so thankful that the rates of COVID are falling in the community and your continued support during the most recent Omicron surge. As the Easter holiday is approaching, we wanted to take this time to remind you about visitation, taking loved ones out of the building, as well as our ongoing infection prevention plan that aligns with the CDC and DOH.

VISITS TO OUR SKILLED NURSING HOMES:

1. NY State is still requiring all visitors to the SNF be tested for COVID prior to the visitation. We have not heard that there are any changes to this despite the decline in prevalence. Tests are provided at the entry for this purpose or you may test at home (within 24 hours of visit) and report result. Negative test results taken at St. Ann's Community are valid for 72 hours.
2. Masking is required in all parts of the building and face shields are required with the masks if visitors are not vaccinated.
3. Any group gathering that requires the use of additional space outside of an elder's room should be approved for use. To do this, please contact the social worker caring for your loved one.
4. Please do not visit if you don't feel well. We will make every effort to connect you with your loved one via skype, phone, or other means.

VISITS OUT OF THE BUILDING:

1. All elders that leave the building for more than 24 hours are welcomed back with the following plan:
 - a. If the elder is up to date with all COVID vaccines/boosters they will receive an antigen test on day 2 of return and day 5-7 of return. They will not need to quarantine.
 - b. If the elder is not up to date with COVID vaccine/booster they will receive an antigen test on day 2 of return and day 5-7 of return. They will be placed on yellow precautions for 7 days upon return.
2. If you are planning to take your loved one out, please inform the nursing manager/social worker of the neighborhood 4 days ahead of the outing to ensure all medications are ready and that a safe plan for the visit is created.

ONGOING INFECTION PREVENTION:

Thankfully we NO LONGER need to test all elders for COVID when there is a staff/elder that tests positive. When there are cases of COVID in elders or our staff, we complete contact tracing and only test elders that have had close contact with the staff member or other elder.

Elders who are exposed are placed on yellow, and testing occurs on day 2 and 5-7 after the exposure. If the elder is up to date with vaccination they will be placed on green if the first test is negative. Elders that are not up to date with vaccination will stay on yellow for 7 days. Elders/Healthcare proxies may decline this testing - but if they do, the elder will have to be placed on yellow for 10 days. As such, we believe if it is to the elder's benefit to comply with the testing.

As has been our practice since the start of the pandemic, elders with symptoms consistent with COVID but who refuse testing will be treated as a positive case.

If you are concerned about this testing or do not agree to it, please contact Kelsey Butler RN at kbutler@mystanns.com or Dr. Petrone at kpetrone@mystanns.com.

Once again, thank you for providing us with support during the last two years. We wish you a happy and healthy spring.

Sincerely,

Kim Petrone MD/Kelsey Butler RN