

St. Ann Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
Bishop Gendron Senior Living Community
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March 12, 2021

It is hard to imagine that we all have endured a year of this pandemic. When we look back over this past year we cannot recall what life was like before COVID as it seems to have taken over our day to day routines. There is much we have learned and today I am just amazed at the love and support we here at St. Ann Rehab & Nursing Center have received and are so thankful that you all have entrusted us in taking care of your loved one during these most unprecedented times. We have learned so much about one another as teammates and the resilience we have from working together- weather that be working on the floor caring for the residents or embarking on a new challenge and helping in the kitchen when the team was out. I am truly in awe of the spirit of my staff and their dedication to one another and those we care for within our walls.

There has been some exciting news in regards to changes in visitation that came out this week from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). An 8-page document was released on March 10th with updates and guidance to increase access to visitation with long term care facilities. The document can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf> for your review. We here at St. Ann will be rolling out changes in our visitation within the upcoming week but understand that visitation will need to be scheduled and we will be offering COVID testing 15 minutes prior to the visit for your safety and the safety of our residents and community. You will need to schedule all indoor visits with Karen – the receptionist beginning on Monday, March 15, 2021. Please contact Karen at 603-742-2612. Visits for next week have already been scheduled and it looks like the week is already full.

We of course will be enforcing safety and infection control precautionary measures for all visitation and we look forward to your continued support in our efforts. Due to our limited amount of available space for visitation, we will be limiting visits to 20 minutes and only 2 visitors at a time in order to try to accommodate visits for all residents. Please be patient as we work through this process as it takes time for this coordination.

Any resident who may be on quarantine or isolation will need to await the completion of his/her 14-day quarantine before an in-person visit can be scheduled. Window and virtual visits, however, are still available.

All visitation will require screening upon entrance into the facility, hand hygiene, the wearing a well-fitted face mask (covering the mouth and nose at all times), and social distancing of 6 feet.

The document referred to in the second paragraph notes that IF a resident is fully vaccinated he/she may choose to have close contact (including touch) while wearing a well fitted face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after. We will be monitoring this closely to ensure any touching is done as safely as possible. In lieu of this change- we will be offering the use of KN95 masks or requesting visitors to double mask as an extra precautionary measure for any close contact. We hope you agree that this extra measure is for everyone's safety.

More good news... The hairdresser will be coming back on March 23rd. She will be here weekly and will also be included in our staff COVID testing cycle(s).

Father Aggie and Father Ryan will also be welcomed back on March 24th to offer Mass at 11:00AM every Wednesday. We are so thankful to be able to welcome them back into our community.

Staff COVID testing will continue on a weekly basis for the next couple of weeks. We are so thankful to be able to stop testing all staff 2x a week as this was time consuming and required much coordination.

Life Enrichment update:

This week we played Hallway Bingo and are celebrating 3 birthdays. On Thursday we celebrate the 101st birthday of Olga and on Saturday we celebrate the 103rd birthday of our oldest resident, Gina. We will celebrate all three birthdays on Friday with birthday cake and punch. Watch our Facebook page for highlights of our 101st and 103rd birthday girls!

It has been a heck of a year and I am so pleased to see some restrictions being lifted albeit with safeguards in place for infection control and to continue to keep COVID outside our walls.

Again, we are so thankful to all of you for your support and patience as we slowly worked through the many changes this past year brought us. We are truly blessed to have all of you.

Kate McCracken, LNHA, MHA

Administrator

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