

April 30, 2021

We completed our weekly COVID testing on Monday, April 30th and I am pleased to report we remain negative.

On April 27, 2021 CMS released the *revised* QSO-20-38-NH that provides changes in our COVID Testing guidance as a Long-Term Care Facility. You can access this QSO by clicking this link: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf>

In summary, we will continue to screen all staff (for each shift), each resident (daily), and all persons entering the facility- such as vendors and visitors.

- **IF** we were to be in an outbreak (defined as a new COVID-19 infection in any healthcare personnel (staff) or any nursing home onset COVID-19 infection in a resident)- ALL staff and Residents- regardless of COVID vaccination status- would be tested.
- Routine Testing of *unvaccinated staff* will be based on the extent of the virus of the community (Strafford County). *Fully vaccinated staff do not have to be routinely tested*. The frequency of testing is determined by the Community COVID-19 Activity Level and is available for your review on Table 2 (page 5) within the QSO noted above in the link provided.
- Strafford County PCR positivity remain greater than 5% which keeps Strafford County at a substantial risk. The county positivity rate is tracked weekly for monitoring to help determine the testing frequency we need to abide by. This week the rates have been noted to be a downward progression which is very promising, however we will need to see what happens once April vacation has concluded.
- Testing Considerations: While not required, facilities may test residents' visitors to help facilitate visitation while also preventing the spread of COVID-19. We here at St. Ann will continue to offer testing to all visitors as we have been doing.

Visitation update:

Lori Shibinette, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, announced yesterday during Governor Sununu's news conference that the state has no restrictions on nursing home visitation. While we can appreciate her eagerness to further open visitation, she failed to mention was that each nursing facility who is regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) must continue to adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by them and the CDC.

Visitation will continue to be scheduled through our receptionist Karen, by calling 603-742-2612. We will need to continue to limit the amount of traffic in the facility for infection control purposes.

Staffing update:

The New Assistant Director of Nursing, Jeannie Gilley will be joining the team on May 4th. Jeannie has been the ADNS at her previous location for 5 years and has 18 years' experience overall as a nurse. We look forward to her joining the team and bringing her vast experience to share and help teach others.

Life Enrichment update:

The folks at St. Ann's are loving this warmer weather. We have been taking advantage of these warmer afternoons by moving our programs outdoors. Tuesday (last week) we had dress alike day which was tons of fun and our residents loved seeing our matching outfits or some of our staff dressing up as each other. Everyone did a fantastic job. Wednesday, we had a tea party in honor of the Queen's birthday which was a huge success. Our fantastic dietary department supplied multiple types of tea along with petit fours. The Petit fours and china tea cups were the talk of the tables. The residents and staff participated in a guess how many jelly beans are in the cup game. We saw guesses anywhere from one hundred all the way to five hundred. We finished up our week with a Friday afternoon hallway happy hour. Even with all the excitement we managed to have our monthly resident council meeting.

Thank you all for your continued support,

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