

St. Ann Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
Bishop Gendron Senior Living Community
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May 14, 2021

This week, on Monday, May 10th, we completed our first round of testing only with the NON-vaccinated staff for our weekly COVID testing. We remain Negative.

Strafford County's PCR Positivity rate was noted to have a spike earlier this week- On Monday we were at 5.3%- by mid-week we jumped to 5.7% - and today we are at 5.4%. So long as we remain greater than 5% (which Strafford County has the highest positivity rate in the state currently) we will continue with weekly testing and remain overly caution here at St. Ann.

CMS update:

On May 11th, CMS released a new QSO-21-19-NH regarding the Interim Final Rule- COVID 19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Staff and Residents. This QSO can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-19-nh.pdf>. In short, this document provides direction for nursing home facilities on the **483.80 Infection Control** – specifically Influenza, pneumococcal, and COVID-19 immunizations and the need for facilities to report to CMS the vaccination status of our staff and residents and follow up treatment if indicated.

Masking update:

Although the Mask mandate within NH expired on April 16, 2021, many businesses and communities have opted to remind residents that local mask rules remain in effect- per WMUR. Masks remain mandatory here at St. Ann for all staff and visitors.

Visitation update:

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.

We are asking if visitors have been vaccinated- however visitors ARE NOT required to share that information. If you choose not to disclose your vaccination status- you will be required to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing of 6 feet as a precautionary measure.

We are rolling out a Resident Visitation Guideline to help all staff to be able to facilitate visitation in accordance with best practices for infection control purposes depending on the vaccination status of our residents and his/her visitors. This guideline will help us to know when masks can or cannot be removed during a visit, whether physical close contact is permissible and if visitors can/cannot eat during a visit. Please be patient with us as we work through these new guidelines to help create the safest and most enjoyable visits possible for all our residents.

We will be looking to open outdoor visitation soon; however, we are currently doing some refreshing updates to our screened in porch- so it is currently not accessible at this time. Stay tuned for our spruced up outdoor space.

Life Enrichment update:

Last week we got things started with bowling and planting flowers in our flower pots we had previously painted. The residents that participated were very proud of their work, and decided to keep the flowers in their room rather than put them out on the porch. They all looked beautiful. We tried a new craft that seemed to be a hit, marble painting. Many of the residents thought we were painting marbles but really the paint was for the paper, and instead of a brush we used marbles. The pictures came out looking like spin art, but doing it this way was a lot more fun. For Cinco De Mayo we celebrated with a margarita cart along with chips and salsa. Thursday the sun finally decided to come out of hiding and we were able to spend the afternoon outside reminiscing. Finally, we honored the end of the week with our weekly bingo and famous cocktail hour, followed by some pre-decorating in the facility for nursing home week. This year's theme is Together Through the Seasons – so we aim to honor each season with fun activities and some yummy treats. Check out the St. Ann Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StAnnRehab/> to see some pictures of the fun.

We hope you all are beginning to enjoy the spring weather- I know I am looking forward to spending some time in my flowerbeds this weekend.

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