



ATTENTION ST. PAUL'S RESIDENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

5/28/2020 COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE – *please read this in its entirety.*

St. Paul's Senior Living Community, Greenville, PA, continues to adjust its action plan in response to information, recommendations and requirements shared by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA-DOH) and others. As you know, St. Paul's serves a fragile population and we have a responsibility to implement a plan of action to protect our population and our workforce. ***Please keep in mind that all of the steps we are taking are in the best interest of the health and safety of residents and staff.*** Also note, that our plan of action is subject to change as new information becomes available.

The following is an update for this week:

- Since March 12, 2020, we have been under strict guidelines and restrictions issued by the PA DOH, CMS and the CDC. At this time, no restrictions have been lifted for long term care communities. Visitors are still restricted. Residents' appointments in the community are still limited to essential appointments only. Communal dining and activities remain on hold. Safeguards such as social distancing, wearing masks, screening residents and team members and encouraging washing hands or using hand sanitizer all continue to be part of our daily life.
- Although we acknowledge the fact that Mercer county, northwest Pennsylvania and northeast Ohio are opening up, we know that the restrictions for long term care communities will be the very last to loosen up. Considering this fact, we appreciate your patience and cooperation as our administrative team continues to monitor daily information about the results of the opening up process and how according to regulators the information translates to long term care communities like St. Paul's. In addition, our team is committed to exploring what opening up at St. Paul's looks like within the regulatory guidelines. We anticipate that the next 2-3 weeks will give us more information about these results and the impact that the greater community having opened potentially has on St. Paul's.
- We continue to strongly discourage residents leaving for any reason other than essential appointments. Should a resident leave for an essential appointment there are safeguards in place to limit their risk of exposure – wearing a mask, social distancing and using hand sanitizer while out. Our concern is not only the safety of the resident going out but also others who live and move within close proximity in a congregate living environment. Residents going out for any reason may put themselves in the position of having to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to our campus, depending on their activities while gone.
- Recently, many of our government officials have been in the news talking about a new initiative to test all long-term care residents and staff for COVID-19. This discussion has been followed up with various recommendations from the PA Department of Health, the CDC and CMS and we continue to receive

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Independent Living Personal Care Memory Care Nursing Care Rehabilitation

339 East Jamestown Road Greenville, PA 16125
Phone: 724-588-7610 www.stpauls1867.org

updated recommendations from these regulatory bodies. We have been working with our state association and other communities like St. Paul's to interpret the recommendations and determine how to best apply them to St. Paul's. Testing is not something we take lightly as there are many contradictions within the recommendations and one size does not fit all. Some of the challenges associated with these testing recommendations include test kit availability, timeliness of test results, accuracy of test results for asymptomatic individuals, available resources to administer significant levels of ongoing testing, etc. Currently, St. Paul's is testing residents when they are experiencing unexplained symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and when ordered by a physician. Any team members experiencing unexplained symptoms are being encouraged to contact their physician and precautions are being taken by St. Paul's to ensure their safety and the safety of others until such symptoms are resolved. To date, we have not seen a positive test result in the St. Paul's community. We will continue to evaluate our testing strategy and work towards arriving at a solution that works best for our community and meets the authoritative guidance set forth by our regulators.

- Life Enrichment continues to focus their time and attention coordinating video and door/window visits for residents and families in all of our residences – The Villas, The Heritage and The Ridgewood. Recently, cell phones with Bluetooth speakers were added to enhance visits by making the phone hands free for residents and the sound louder and clearer. We encourage family members who would like to schedule a video or door/window visit to do so by calling one of our Life Enrichment Specialists.
- We realize that the decisions our team makes affect the daily lives of our residents and their families. Please know that all of our decisions are discussed thoroughly and never taken lightly. We recognize and appreciate individual questions and concerns and apply them to the greater population in this case knowing that whatever we do in response to this virus potentially affects all of our residents and team members. We deeply appreciate your trust and patience as we continue through this journey.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We all can protect ourselves and others from COVID-19 and Influenza by following these general guidelines at all times: wash hands often; maintain an appropriate social distance (6'); wear a mask when in public and frequently clean high touch surfaces. Thank you for doing your part.

As always, we encourage you to refer to the CDC, CMS and PA DOH websites for more information.

If you have any questions regarding this communication or St. Paul's Plan of Action please contact one of our administrators: Tammy Lininger, The Villas; Dianna Jones, The Heritage, Jones Serenity Circle and Jones Serenity Lane; Mickie Chapman, The Ridgewood; or Rita Clemente, The Colony and Without Walls.

Please monitor our website (www.stpauls1867.org) and Facebook page (stpaulsseniorlivingcommunity) for updated information.