



March 18, 2021

Dear Families, Residents, and Staff,

After a solid year of this COVID-19 pandemic, we see some hope and light at the end of what has been a very dark time for all of us. We had three vaccine clinics in January and February when about 75% of our long-term residents were fully vaccinated. Some of our short-term residents were also vaccinated depending on when they arrived and when they discharged from our center. News about vaccination eligibility, dates and places seems to be announced almost daily. We cannot stress enough the importance of getting vaccinated for your protection and that of your loved ones.

With so many residents and staff fully vaccinated in long term care facilities, the CDC and the Department of Public Health have given us guidance how to further open our doors to visitors. Please note, the definition of being **FULLY** vaccinated is - received both required doses of the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccine and it has been at least two weeks since the 2nd dose of their vaccine or it has been two weeks since you received the one required dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Below is how we are proceeding with their guidance:

- Visitors will continue to be screened at the front door of the lobby by having their temperature taken and being asked a series of questions regarding their health and if they have had any exposure to COVID-19.
- All visitors will be required to wear a mask for the duration of their visit and practice good hand hygiene throughout their visit.
- Visitors who **are not fully** vaccinated, will need to continue to schedule their visits with Lindsey Emde by calling 617-825-6320 or emailing her at lemde @ stjosephrehab.com. Visitors will be required to practice social distancing (minimum of 6 feet apart) as well as wear a mask and practice good hand hygiene throughout their visit.

- Visitors who are **FULLY** vaccinated as mentioned above, may visit their loved ones in their bedrooms, **IF** their loved one is also fully vaccinated, **and** their loved one's roommate is fully vaccinated.
- Compassionate care visits may occur as per DPH guidance.
- Visitors are not permitted to "roam" the center. For everyone's health and safety, they will visit their loved one at a pre-determined part of the center.
- We anticipate re-starting outdoor visits in early April. We have purchased two 10' x 20' "pop up" canopy tents. These will greatly assist in case of inclement weather. Our backyard patio area is a great location for a visit with your loved one.

The facility requests, when possible, that you continue to call us in advance of your visit so that we may determine where the appropriate location will be for it to take place. Please call Lindsey Emde as you have been doing. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we slowly emerge from the difficult time this virus has caused for us all. We are available to assist in answering any questions you may have. You may call our new Director of Nursing Services, Sonia Edwards, or me at 617-825-6320. I also encourage you to continue to check our website at www.stjosephrehab.com as it is updated regularly.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our center and we encourage you to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible to receive it.

Warmest Regards,

Jeffrey Diminico
Administrator

Cc: Dr. Lisa Caruso, Co-Medical Director
Dr. Ronald Gomes, Co-Medical Director
Sonia Edwards, RN – Director of Nursing Services
Lindsey Emde, Life Enrichment Coordinator