

# Saint Patrick's Home

REHABILITATION AND HEALTH CARE CENTER

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February 24, 2021

## St. Patrick's Update

Dear Family, Friends, and Residents,

As you are aware the Governor in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have issued recommendations and guidelines for Nursing Home Visitation. These Guidelines take effect on February 26, 2021 and it is important that all guidelines be followed when resuming visitation.

There has been very little change made to the original guidelines that were set forth by the NYSDOH in the past regarding visitation. **First and foremost, visitation can only resume if there have been no new cases of COVID -19 in the facility within the past 14 days. This is a change from the original regulation of 28 days.** For most nursing homes this is a difficult issue but one that must be adhered to. At this point in time, we will be eligible to have indoor visitation resume the week of March 8, 2021. We will begin scheduling indoor visits for that time, however if we receive a positive COVID result in the facility, we will have to change those visits to Window Visits which will be allowed to resume. We sincerely hope that this is not the case and will keep you updated as to our progress.

All visitors will be required to provide a negative COVID result taken within 72 hours of their visit. This may be a Rapid Test. **We would ask if possible that you email your test results to Christine prior to your visit.** Her email is noted further down in this letter. This will save time during the check in process and expedite the visits. If you are unable to email the results you may bring them with you on the day of your visit. All visitors must wear masks and be screened upon arrival. Temperatures will be taken, and appropriate forms filled out prior to your visit. Visitors will not be able to walk through the facility and a designated area will be identified for your visit.

**The number of visitors to the facility cannot exceed 20% of the resident census on any given day. The regulation also stipulates that: "the number of visitors and time allocated should take into consideration that many residents and their loved ones will want to avail themselves of such visits. Adequate supervision and strict adherence to the core principles of infection control should be adhered to. Facilities should schedule visits for a specified length of time to help ensure all residents are able to receive visitors. Facilities need to allow for adequate staff to help with transportation of residents, monitoring visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting of areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA approved disinfectant."** As you can imagine this is a lengthy process and we are striving to accommodate as many residents and visitors possible on a given day in keeping with the guidelines.

*"Where It All Began"*

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***That being said, we will schedule visitation Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM beginning the week of March 8, 2021. Visits will be 45 minutes long and a maximum of 3 visitors per person will be allowed. Visitors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult of 18 years of age or older as per the guidelines.***

**Please call Christine DeLuca at 718-304-1807, or email at [cdeluca@stpatrickshome.org](mailto:cdeluca@stpatrickshome.org) beginning next week on March 2, 2021 to schedule your visit.**

Facilities must also adhere to regulations regarding the County Positivity Rates as defined by CMS.

**Key provisions include:**

- ***Visitation may take place only if there has been no new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and the facility is not currently conducting outbreak testing as reported on daily HERDS submissions.***
- ***Visitation must be "paused" if the COVID-19 county positivity rate, based on the CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data site, is high (>10%), except in compassionate care situations. Visitor testing is required if the county positivity rate is 5% or higher. Specifically, the guidance provides the following directions for each positivity rate band:***
  - o ***Low (<5%) = Visitation should occur according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (beyond compassionate care visits). Visitor testing is strongly encouraged; facilities may utilize rapid testing.***
  - o ***Medium (5% – 10%) = Visitation should occur according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (beyond compassionate care visits). Visitor testing is required. Visitors must either: present a negative COVID-19 test result from within the past 72 hours, or facilities may utilize rapid testing to meet the testing requirement. Additionally, all visitors must adhere to all infection control practices.***
  - o ***High (>10%) = Visitation must only occur for compassionate care situations according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies. Facilities should offer rapid testing whenever possible.***

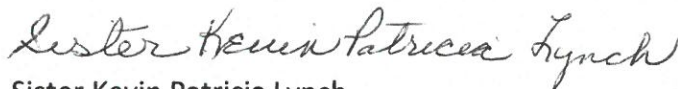
At this point the County Positivity rate is at approximately 9% and we are considered in the Medium category. We will follow the recommendations set forth by CMS regarding this visitation. It is to be noted that infection control guidelines and social distancing must be maintained. All residents who are able must wear a mask and visitors must wear masks. Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entrance.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this most difficult time. We are hopeful that this will be the beginning of the return to some normalcy. We ask you continued cooperation in adhering to the guidelines set forth by the DOH and CMS regarding the visitation policy.

Sincerely,



Sister Diane Mack  
Administrator



Sister Kevin Patricia Lynch  
CEO