



September 30, 2020

Dear Family & Friends of St Joseph's:

You have probably read that Nursing Home "Visitations" are being opened (<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh.pdf>). Everyone is happy about it but it will take a little time to organize. Our Associates and volunteers are ready to assist.

There are still certain precautions necessary as outlined by the same CMS memo:

- *Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms*
- *Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)*
- *Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose)*
- *Social distancing at least six feet between persons*
- *Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)*
- *Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit*
- *Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*
- *Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care)*
- *Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH)*

At this point, we still encourage outdoor visits as the safest method. For visits within the Home, we are arranging the Coffee shop for residents of the Skilled Unit. The Residential Care residents will visit in St Joseph's Hall. Indoor visits need to be scheduled in order to control the number of persons coming into the facility at one time. Our Social Worker, Jennifer Regish, is preparing more detailed information for each Unit.

We ask you continue to work with us in our efforts to protect the residents. Please do not visit if you have any signs of illness; limit the length of visits and the number of visitors (2 at a time is preferred for about one half hour). Use your judgement about children coming into the facility.

I can end with some really good news: the beautician can come in again! That will certainly be a treat for all.

We hope you and yours are well and promise our continued prayers and heartfelt thanks for your help.

Mother Genevieve & the Little Sisters