

## COVID-19 and St. Monica's Practices

COVID-19 has been an ongoing challenge and we have followed the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) since its onset. The guidance is designed to assist facilities in improving their infection prevention and control practices to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and to keep the community members and the staff who care for them safe from infection.

This article is intended for educational purposes only and highlights some of the main practices at St. Monica's.

### Strategies Used to Limit the Spread of COVID-19 for All (Safety Measures):

- Screening for COVID symptoms, close contact, and temperature checks at the front desk kiosk for anyone entering St. Monica's
- Monitoring community members for COVID signs/symptoms daily
- Reminders to community members to refrain from touching their face or nose
- Handwashing
- Wearing a mask - All are required to wear a mask while in the community and around others
- Cleaning - Hand sanitizers are placed throughout the building, high touch surfaces are disinfected throughout the day, and equipment is sanitized between use
- For all visitors and staff - A hand sanitizer station is available upon entering the building and we ask all to use this station upon entering the building to protect our community members and staff
- Social and physical distancing during activities

Remember: Physical/social distancing doesn't mean to isolate. We need to keep older adults safe, but also keep in mind social isolation can have a negative impact on older peoples' immunity and mental health.

### New Admissions (Newly admitted or someone returning from the hospital or rehab center):

Community members who are **NOT** fully vaccinated or have had prolonged close contact with someone with the COVID-19 infection are quarantined for evidence of COVID-19 for **14 days after admission** and are cared for using all recommended COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE). Close contact is defined as contact within six feet for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.

### Outbreak Status:

Outbreak status is defined as "one resident or staff member testing COVID-19 positive with a confirmed PCR positive test." We report positive COVID-19 results to the local health department immediately and they direct further action.

An outbreak **does not** require the cancellation of facility-wide activities, visitation, therapy, or communal dining. Community members with an active acute respiratory infection or COVID-19 should not participate in facility-wide activities, visitation, therapy, or communal dining.

### Visitations:

Visitations are allowed except for those in isolation with COVID-19.

### Isolation of those with COVID-19:

When a community member has confirmed or suspected COVID-19, the community member should remain on standard, airborne, and contact (plus eye protection) precautions at minimum until conditions for discontinuation\* are met:

- At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms, AND
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

### COVID-19 Testing:

The testing guidance referenced below is used.

[Assisted Living COVID-19 Testing Guidance \(wisconsin.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/assistedliving/covid-19-testing-guidance)