

COVID Weekly

Goal: To prevent an outbreak of the virus at Saint John's while continuing to support resident and staff wellbeing.

PLEASE GET A VACCINE

What Our Experts Say



Mary Milliren, RN
VP of
Health Services

On December 14, Pfizer's COVID vaccine received final FDA approval; it is anticipated within the next week, the Moderna vaccine will also be approved. For these vaccines to be truly effective in stopping the spread of COVID and ending the pandemic, 70% of the population must be vaccinated. Our focus now turns to educating our staff and residents about the vaccine, gaining confidence in its safety, and planning for immunization clinics with Walgreen's our immunization partner. Let's all do our part and get the vaccine. It's the first step forward towards getting "back to normal."

What Our Residents Say



Are you questioning whether you should take the COVID vaccine when it is offered? Some people are, usually because of the fear of safety and the side effects. The reports assure us the scientists have done extensive research in this regard, but if we could only ask a few people who had been through the process already, it would be so reassuring! That won't be possible for a while, yet there is urgency to put COVID behind us and resume our normal lives here at Saint John's and with our families. Therefore, each one of us will have to decide whether the side effects of the vaccine can really be worse than the known effects of the disease on people in our age category.

- Eve Lipchik, Resident, 4D

COPING STRATEGIES

As we each weigh the option of whether or not to receive the vaccine, many things may cause us fear and anxiety. Here are some ways to cope:

- ◆ Know you are not alone in your fears
- ◆ Talk with your doctor and other health care providers about the pros and cons of receiving the vaccine
- ◆ Talk to your friends and family about your concerns
- ◆ Know the consequences of not receiving the vaccine
- ◆ Talk with people you respect and trust to understand how they made their decision.

Fear of the unknown can only be overcome if we are willing to seek the and make informed choices along the way.

- Jana Troutman-Miller, Chaplain



Renée Anderson,
President & CEO

At long last, a vaccination for the COVID-19 virus is on the way. We cannot yet say when Saint John's will receive the vaccine, but our plans for immunization are in progress. Walgreen's has provided us with guidelines to help us prepare. We are educating our staff and attempting to determine who will accept and who will decline the vaccine – unlike the influenza vaccine, we cannot make it mandatory. However, we will strongly encourage participation. While many questions remain, we are encouraged by the knowledge of vaccine on the horizon early next year.

By the Numbers:

14-Day Average Positivity Rates for Milwaukee County 13.2% up from 12.9% last week.

New Cases at Saint John's December 10-16

Tower Residents: 0
Staff: 0