

In the past week, Saint John's has learned of two COVID-19 transmissions involving residents or guests. In keeping with our pledge of transparency, we want to bring these situations to your attention.

On July 15, a Care Neighborhood resident was visited by a guest. Both the resident and the guest are fully vaccinated. However, on July 20, the guest began experiencing symptoms, was tested, and found to be COVID positive. The resident was tested on July 20 and the test was negative. To date, has not shown any symptoms of the virus. In accordance with CDC and CMS guidance for fully vaccinated individuals, the resident was not quarantined. Out of an abundance of caution, they have limited their contact with others.

On July 22, a Towers resident reported not feeling well. A "rapid" COVID test was performed and was positive. A confirmatory PCR test was completed and was also positive. This resident, who was fully vaccinated, has remained in isolation in their apartment and is recovering. This resident was known to have limited contact with a very small number of other residents, and we have contacted them directly. No other residents have been quarantined as all are fully vaccinated. We have requested that they exercise caution in their interactions with others.

The vaccine clearly reduces the potential for the virus to spread. These "breakthrough" cases of COVID-19 – instances where fully vaccinated individuals still contract the virus – have always been possible. The vaccination's true success is in the body's ability to recover from the infection without serious complications. In these two instances, it would certainly appear that vaccination has dramatically improved the outcomes we might have experienced just a few short months ago.

### Changes in COVID Precautions

As transmission in the Milwaukee area becomes more prevalent, we are enacting a prudent level of enhanced precautions and restrictions to protect all residents. Effective immediately, we are requiring that all indoor visits occur only in residences. Outdoor visits, using the Plaza and Care Neighborhood balconies, are encouraged. Visitors should enter the building at one of the Resident Services desks, where they will be screened for symptoms. From there, the visitor should proceed directly to the resident's apartment or appropriate outdoor space, leaving the apartment only to return to the building's exit at the conclusion of the visit.

Visitors are not currently permitted to attend events except those events that are held outside, such as our Wednesday night concerts on the Plaza.

Consistent with updated CDC guidance, we are now requiring all persons – regardless of vaccination status – to wear face coverings while indoors. Residents attending events or programs may choose to remove their face covering while in the event.

All other previous restrictions remain in place. Please know none of us wish to usher in restrictions, or to live a restricted life. However, the events of the past days have proven that we are not "out of the woods" yet and increasing our vigilance is essential to keep all members of our community safe.