

Updated Guidance for Resident Events & Gatherings

On December 29, Saint John's announced a two-week cessation of in-person events, resident gatherings, and in-person dining. We have since been carefully monitoring COVID cases among employees, residents, and in the broader Milwaukee community. While there is still a very high rate of virus activity in Milwaukee, thankfully no additional residents have become infected. Infection rates among employees have fallen and now plateaued at a more manageable level.

As a result, **effective this Sunday, January 16, we will reinstate in-person Towers events and gatherings with strict face mask and social distancing requirements.** The social distancing requirements will create attendance limits. For example, the 'distanced' capacity of the NCAC is 45; the SCAC and Community Room will both hold 22; the LifeStreams classroom can accommodate 15. For many events, participating via Zoom or Channel 955 will continue as an option.

The restriction on in-person dining will continue at this time. Carry-out meals continue to be available from both the Bistro and Taylor's. Next week, Taylor's was scheduled to begin offering lunch Wednesday through Saturday. Plans are underway to temporarily transition the upcoming lunch service to carry-out starting January 19.

Other COVID precautions remain unchanged. We continue to perform weekly 'surveillance' testing of fully asymptomatic employees whose job puts them in repeated close contact with residents. This level of testing is being completed as an extra precaution. We offer testing to residents who are either experiencing symptoms or who have had close contact with someone known to be COVID positive.

We continue to expect every person on campus to always wear a properly-fitted face mask, covering both the mouth and nose, while in all our common areas. Employees will be wearing more tight-fitting KN-95 masks or, in some cases, using two masks or even a face shield to ensure the proper protection.

About Those Masks

I know many of you are tired of wearing masks. Me, too! But I wear one every time I'm around others. Why? Because studies about virus transmission support their use. But also because it's a simple way for me to communicate to everyone around me how much I care about them! Saint John's requires you to wear one to protect yourself and protect your neighbors – some of whom are severely immune-compromised. When you choose to wear a mask properly, your actions build community. If you disregard the requirement, your actions build barriers. Please consider what you are building with your actions.

Questions?

An additional COVID Update, complete with updated community statistics, will be sent later in the week. The weekly COVID Updates are produced by Saint John's COVID Response Team. If you have a question for the team, please contact Matt Loyd, COO, at (414) 831 – 6953 or mloyd@saintjohnsmilw.org.