



To: Home on Eighth Residents

From: Sue Knutson, Mission Leader
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Date: May 17, 2023

RE: Masks

The end of Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023 has initiated some changes for the residents, visitors, and staff at Samaritan Bethany Home on Eighth. We are excited to announce that starting today, May 17, masks will not be required. However, if outbreak status is identified, at least one case of COVID-19 in a resident or three cases of COVID-19 in staff, masks will be required in the affected neighborhood/area. A mask will be required for a two-week period until no new cases of COVID-19 are identified. We continue to assess community respiratory infections and may need to require masks throughout the building if respiratory infections are at an increased rate. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please continue to do so. If you are not feeling well, we recommend not visiting.

The Home on Eighth is regulated by Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), as happy as we are to no longer require masks, we still need to follow regulations put in place by these entities. We continue to follow the core principles of infection prevention and control, including hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, disinfecting and sanitization, etc. to mitigate the spread of infections. Testing of residents and staff will continue when symptomatic or in outbreak status to identify cases as well as quarantining residents who test positive for COVID-19.

We will continue to educate residents, visitors, and staff on infection prevention and control practices, COVID-19 changes, and vaccinations. At this time, COVID-19 vaccinations continue to be mandated for staff. Resident's will be offered COVID-19 vaccine(s) to for both primary and/or boosters accordingly and as recommended. We will continue to provide letters when in outbreak status and signage throughout the building will occur as reminders.

If you are visiting a loved one at the Home on Eighth, please remember to stay home if you are sick, have been exposed to someone positive for COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19 until you have met the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) criteria for healthcare settings to end isolation. We ask that you do not visit during these times to help minimize the spread of infection(s).

We appreciate all you have done to comply with guidance these past three years to keep residents at Home on Eighth safe and we look forward to a summer of seeing your smiles!