

For the December 24, 2023, COVID-19 positive test report, we have had three Nursing Facility residents test positive for COVID-19 and we have not had three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours of each other.

Cumulatively since January 1, 2023, we have a total of:

Classification of person:	Nursing Facility Staff	Personal Care Home Staff	Healthcare partner Staff	Nursing Facility Residents	Personal Care Home Residents
Number that tested positive for COVID-19:	39	7	10	33	10

Therefore, cumulatively to date since March 2020 we have a total of:

Classification of person:	Nursing Facility Staff	Personal Care Home Staff	Healthcare partner Staff	Nursing Facility Residents	Personal Care Home Residents
Number that tested positive for COVID-19:	238	37	49	185	51

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance on Nursing Home visitation and their guidance on the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention include the following:

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine (defined below), should not enter the facility. The need to **quarantine** is when you might have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. **Please see below for quarantine guidelines as they are different for people up to date\* with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses and those NOT up to date\* with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.** We will screen all who enter St. Anne Home for these visitation exclusions. It is important to note that: you **quarantine** when you might have been exposed to the virus and may or may not have been infected and you **isolate** when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don't have symptoms. You cannot enter our building if you have a diagnosis of COVID-19 (or tested positive for COVID-19) in the prior 10 days
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between persons, in accordance with CDC guidance
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required by CMS and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Per current CMS guidance visitation is now allowed for all residents at all times at St. Anne Home provided the above Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention are followed. If a resident's roommate is not up to date\* with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should NOT be conducted in the resident's room, if possible. **Before visiting a resident with a roommate, please see the Villa / Unit nurse to determine where the visit should take place. Thank you.**

Please be aware that Westmoreland County's COVID-19 level of community transmission is currently "high". **Any visitor that is experiencing these symptoms may have COVID-19: Fever or chills, Cough,**

**Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, and Diarrhea are encouraged not to visit and to be tested on their own before coming to the facility. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. If you feel you might have been exposed to COVID-19 and meet the criteria for quarantine, you will not be permitted to visit.**

**All visitors are strongly encouraged to become up to date\* with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.** St. Anne Home will be asking visitors about their vaccination status on the updated screening tool, however per CMS visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation. All visitors should wear a face covering or mask at all times.

Currently, St. Anne Home is conducting Outbreak testing. Per CMS an Outbreak is defined as when a new nursing home onset of COVID-19 occurs (i.e., a new COVID-19 case among residents or staff). Please be aware that there is the potential risk of becoming positive with COVID-19 when visiting during an outbreak investigation and, as with all visits, you must adhere to the core principles of infection prevention listed above. If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they should wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room if the resident lives in a private room.

Pennsylvania Department of Health quarantine guidance for people **regardless of vaccination status** apply to St. Anne Home visitors: Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status, are no longer required to quarantine at home

- They should wear a high-quality mask for 10- days after exposure occurred (day 0 is day exposure occurred) whenever they are around others inside their home or indoors in public. If someone is unable to mask and for children under 2 years of age, other prevention actions should be taken, including additional physical distancing and increased ventilation.
- They should watch for symptoms to develop for 10 days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If symptoms develop, the person should isolate immediately and get tested, and stay home until the test results come in. If the test result is positive, the person should follow the isolation recommendations.
- Exposed people should take extra precautions if the person is around someone who is at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- They should get tested at least 5 full days after exposure. Testing should occur regardless of the presence of symptoms.

Pennsylvania Department of Health guidance for people **who test positive for COVID-19** which apply to St. Anne Home visitors: People who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home for at least 5 days (day 0 is the day symptoms began) and isolate from others at home, if feasible. Because people with COVID-19 are likely most infectious during those first 5 days, it is also recommended:

- Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home.
- Avoid travel.
- Separate from others as much as possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Take steps to improve ventilation at home, if possible.
- Not share personal household items like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Monitor symptoms. If they have an emergency warning sign (like trouble breathing), they should seek emergency medical care immediately.

For people with mild, symptomatic COVID-19, isolation can end 5 days after symptom onset (day 0 is the day symptoms began), provided:

- Any fever that was present has ended at least 24 hours prior (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving, and
- They continue to properly wear a high-quality mask around others for 5 more days after the 5-day isolation period.
- They make efforts to avoid being around people who are more likely to develop severe illness from COVID-19 until after day 10.
- If you had mild illness, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10 if you have two sequential negative antigen tests taken 48 hours apart. If either test result is positive, persons should continue to wear a mask around others and continue testing every 48 hours until they have two sequential negative results or until the 10 days is complete.
- Some individuals may continue to test positive for extended period. If someone continues to have persistent positive test results but they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and all other symptoms are improving, isolation can be discontinued after day 10.

For people who test positive and are asymptomatic, isolation can end 5 days after the first positive test (day 0 is the day the sample for the test was collected), provided:

- They can continue to wear a high-quality mask around others for 5 more days after the 5-day isolation period (total of 10 days from the day sample was collected).
- If symptoms develop after a positive test, their 5-day isolation period should start over (day 0 changes to the first day of symptoms).
- They make efforts to avoid being around people who are more likely to develop severe illness from COVID-19 until after day 10.
- If you had no symptoms, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10 if you have two sequential negative antigen tests taken 48 hours apart. If either test result is positive, persons should continue to wear a mask around others and continue testing every 48 hours until they have two sequential negative results or until the 10 days is complete.
- Some individuals may continue to test positive for extended period. If someone continues to have persistent positive test results but they have been asymptomatic for the full 10 days, isolation can be discontinued after day 10.

For people who have moderate COVID-19 illness (i.e., shortness of breath, difficulty breathing), or severe illness (i.e., you were hospitalized), or a weakened immune system, they should isolate for the full 10 days. For people with severe illness or a weakened immune system, they should consult their healthcare provider before ending isolation. Ending isolation without a viral test may not be an option.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates about the situation and will promptly notify you if we identify any additional residents or staff with confirmed COVID-19. We encourage you to contact us with questions and concerns. Please call us at 724-837-6070 or visit our website at [www.stannehome.org](http://www.stannehome.org) for updates. Our entire care team is here to serve you and answer your questions. Thank you for your continued support and confidence in the care and services St. Anne Home provides to you and or your loved one. The safety of our residents and staff is our top priority.

