

5/18/20

Good afternoon everyone! I hope this email finds you well. We wanted to update you on a few things for the week. First, Praise the Lord that we continue to remain COVID-FREE at Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence.

Second of all, if you follow our Facebook page you will have seen that we took full advantage of the beautiful weather last week and over the weekend. Residents were able to get outside and safely socially distance themselves in the courtyards. They were very excited to get outside and enjoy the fresh air so pray for more warm days to come!

Just a reminder that although the county has gone to the Yellow phase of reopening, nursing homes continue to be mandated that we have no outside visitors. We have not received any additional information of this guidance yet. Which also means to please remember, items cannot be dropped off at the facility. You must contact Social Services to receive prior approval to have items dropped off. If needed, items should be sent in via the postal service. This is very important to remember as the virus can live on inanimate objects. I know this is difficult with the county being open now but please remember we have different guidelines we must follow.

Next we would like to discuss the directive that came out last week from the Department of Health requiring us to test residents and staff for COVID-19. For communities that have no cases of COVID we are being told that we must weekly test 20% of our staff and 20% of our residents. The testing has not begun yet because we are awaiting further guidance from The Department of Health as to just how this process will work and where we will get the test kits from to complete that amount of tests. What we do know, is that for a resident to be tested they will require a physician's order and the POA or resident responsible party WILL BE contacted regarding testing prior to the test being administered. We expect we will have more clarification on this process this week but for now we wanted to reassure you that before your loved one is tested the POA or responsible party for the resident will be contacted.

And finally, recently there has been some misinformation on the Department of Health website that shows there is a COVID positive case in a Blair County Nursing Home. However, that information is incorrect. We want to assure you that we must notify all POA's or responsible parties of our community IF we would have a positive case of COVID-19. We were discussing this morning, that if one of our families were to see that information from the Department of Health, it would be alarming. You would be wondering is that my loved one. So we want to reassure you that IF (God forbid) one of our residents does become positive, the POA or resident responsible party of that resident will be contacted directly. We pray that our status will remain COVID-FREE, but if at any point that changes, please note that you would be notified privately via a phone call and not through a general email such as this.

I hope you find this update helpful and reassuring. God Bless!