

4/15/20

Good afternoon everyone! I hope this message finds you well. We are all doing great here at the facility. As you saw we had a very blessed Easter and are continuing to keep the residents busy with lots of fun activities throughout the week. Sister wanted me to update you on a new recommendation that the CDC has come out with as another safety precaution for residents. Everything we have been doing thus far reduces the potential for exposure of the coronavirus to reach our residents. Now the Department of Health and the CDC are recommending:

“When possible, all long-term care facility residents, whether they have COVID-19 symptoms or not, should cover their noses and mouths when staff are in their room. Residents can use tissues for this. They could also use cloth, non-medical masks when those are available. Residents should not use medical facemasks unless they are COVID-19 positive or assumed to be COVID-19 positive.”

Here at Garvey Manor and OLAR we are so extremely blessed to have no one with COVID-19 or any exposure to the virus, so they do not need to use a medical grade mask.

So what we have put into place is the following:

1. This afternoon our infection control nurse Laura Bankert went on the CC TV to do an in-service for the residents. She explained this new recommendation. She also demonstrated to the residents how to use a tissue, cloth, or scarf to cover their mouth and nose when staff are in their room. She explained that this is for THEIR protection. She explained how everything we are doing is to keep them safe.
2. She then explained that we do have a large quantity of cloth masks available for use. So, starting tomorrow IF a resident requests a cloth mask they will be given their own mask to keep in their rooms, which will be laundered by staff and returned to the resident for continued use.
3. The resident does not have to wear a cloth mask. They can use a tissue or scarf, but if they feel better wearing a mask we will provide them with one.
4. The cloth masks can be difficult to breathe through and are sometimes cumbersome. We anticipate residents may prefer to use a tissue or scarf. There is no evidence to show the mask is better than a tissue or scarf so we feel confident that whatever option they use it will meet the demands of this recommendation.

I know this is a lot but, we wanted you to be aware of this so that first of all you know why we are doing this, and second that we are all still healthy and safe from the virus!!! But, also so that you can reiterate what we are saying to your loved one when you talk to them or see them on your virtual visits. We did not want you to be alarmed by them wearing a mask or using something to cover their mouth and nose. Just remember it is for THEIR protection.

The quote that the state suggests to us is “I cover my mouth to protect you, you cover your mouth to protect me.”