

January 4, 2021

To the family members of our residents,

On this, the 4th day of this new year, I extend my sincerest wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Safe year to you from all the Sisters and the Staff. Since I reported to you on December 31, and over the long holiday weekend, we have been vigilant to monitor residents and staff.

In the testing of staff on 12/31/2020 only one staff members tested positive and one additional staff member tested positive today. All staff will be tested again tomorrow.

While monitoring residents with symptoms over the weekend, three tested positive on the E-1 unit. Retesting all residents in the nursing home today resulted in 3 positive on the E-2 unit, one on D-1 and one on C-1. We are cohorting residents who test positive into RED ZONES as much as possible to prevent further exposure of others. Most residents are show cold-like symptoms. Unfortunately, two residents who were Covid + were called home by the Lord over the weekend. May they rest in peace. All our staff keenly feel the impact of the virus among our residents and mourn the loss of those who have died.

We conducted the first of three scheduled Covid Vaccine Clinics over the weekend. CVS Pharmacy staff were here to administer vaccines. A total of 119 staff and 114 residents in both Garvey Manor Nursing and Our Lady of the Alleghenies received the vaccine. Others will receive it at the next clinic days January 23 & 24 and those who already received it will get the 2nd dose then. We are hopeful the vaccine will help to slow the spread by protecting more people from contracting the virus. The vaccine does not change infection control practices, quarantine status or use of PPE by staff or residents. We hope that Pennsylvania will soon make vaccines available to the general public as the best mitigation means available. We pray there is not a rise in cases as a result of the holidays.

Many families still drop packages off in our WHITE TENT for residents. We want to make sure the right resident gets items as soon as possible after delivered. **PLEASE CONVEY TO ANY FAMILY MEMBERS WHO MAY DELIVER – Items MUST be in a PLASTIC BAG tied closed with the residents FULL NAME and that of the person who brings it on the outside.** We experience many problems when items are not tied shut in plastic bags and are not fully labeled: due to weather, there is the potential items can get wet, open bags sometime fall over and contents come out, multiple bags are dropped off but each one is not labeled. We cannot bag and label the delivery. Please be aware, it may take up to 48 hours for the resident to receive the delivery. Items essential for residents such as glasses, hearing aides, medications etc. and mail should have delivery arranged through social service to drop off at the main entrance foyer.

Please continue to remember all of us in your prayers. We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding.

Sr. Joachim Anne, Administrator