

February 24, 2021

To the Families of the residents of Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies (OLAR),

As we come to the end of February, and mark the one year anniversary of enduring the Covid-19 Pandemic, we all know this has been a year we wish we could repeat under different circumstances. Though there have been a lot of very difficult days for all of us, we are very grateful that we are now at a hiatus in regard to the virus.

- For the past four weeks, we have no new cases of Covid-19 among residents or staff.
- The Blair County positivity rate is the lowest it has been in months at 4.4%.
- We continue to Covid test staff once each week, with no positive results yesterday. Residents are only tested if they are symptomatic, potentially exposed or if they are frequently out of the facility for doctor appointments or medical treatments.

Because of the above factors, we are now able to offer ‘in person’ visits for residents and you, their families!

We know that this is a longed for opportunity that we are very pleased to finally be able to facilitate for you and our residents. Regulations and Guidance published by the Department of Health, Center for Medicare and Medicaid and the CDC were used in developing our Visitation Plan:

- Visits must be scheduled as the virtual or window visits have been scheduled (call Garvey Manor Activity Dept. for Nursing Home residents. Call Michelle Bookhammer for OLAR residents.) Phone number is (814) 695-5571. Visitors will be asked pre-screening questions and must provide contact information prior to visit.
- The available visiting times will be given when you call to schedule a visit. Time slots on various days are available late morning, afternoon, early evening.
- Visits are held in the main lobby area (Neutral zone) at designated spaces, for a limited period of time.
- Visitors must be screened and must be masked at all times. For the protection of our residents and staff, visitors will not be permitted into the facility if they have any positive indicators of Covid or exposure.
- Visitors and residents must remain 6 feet apart, with no physical contact (touching, hugging kissing).
- No items can be passed to or shared with the resident during the visit.
- Only two visitors can be present for a visit. Visitors should arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled visit in order to go through the screening process prior to being seated for the visit. Unfortunately, visitors are not permitted to circulate through the facility but must remain only in the designated ‘neutral’ zone, the lobby or the foyer.
- Virtual visits can still be scheduled when ‘in person’ visits are not possible.
- If the Blair County positivity rate goes up above 10%, or if we have an outbreak of Covid in the facility among a staff member or residents, we will again have to curtail the visits.

We do not have any new directives from the Department of Health as far as being able to open the facility to any other types of public access yet. We long for the day when this will be possible. We miss everyone!!

We look forward to seeing many of you when you come for visits. God bless you and stay safe.

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator