

February 9, 2021

Dear Families of our Residents,

We have better news for you this week. The Blair County positivity rate is down to 8.4% for the week of Jan. 31–Feb. 6. We hope this downward trend continues but the rate in some neighboring counties is going up again after a downward trend. We are closely monitoring this.

The two residents who tested Covid positive January 14 will ‘graduate’ out of the Red zone tomorrow. Testing of all residents and staff on Sunday and Monday this week did not identify any new cases. Currently we have no staff off with active Covid and only three quarantined with potential exposures. We are very pleased with these statistics and hope the trend continues.

We have to maintain a 14 day period of being Covid Free (All Green Zones) before we can begin the next step in the reopening process. This also depends on the County positivity rate remaining below 10%. As of now four nursing home units and Our Lady of the Alleghenies are considered Green zones (Covid Free). Two units remain Yellow zones (potential exposure) at least until Sunday.

Our new canopy, at the rear entrance, is up and in use to receive deliveries for residents. We continue to experience problems with personal deliveries and the ability to get item safely to the proper residents.

PLEASE remind ALL extended family members who might bring something for your loved ones that:

- ALL items **MUST BE IN PLASTIC BAGS & TIED SHUT.**
- Name of resident, room number or unit AND name of person sending item **MUST BE ON EVERY BAG** if there are multiple bags dropped off.
- **NO PERISHABLE or HOME-MADE FOOD.** Store packaged food only. **NO LIVE PLANTS.**
- Special items such as mail, glasses, watches, hearing aids, medications, electronic devices, etc. should be brought to the front lobby foyer for delivery after prearrangements are made by calling Social Service for the nursing home OR Linda Sell/ Denise Becker for residents in OLAR.
- Flowers from florists are delivered to the main lobby foyer.

We are exploring a way to get Covid-19 vaccines for residents and staff after the state partnership with CVS ends on 2/13/21 when vaccines will only be given to those who need the second dose. At this time we have been unable to secure a way to provide vaccines for residents and staff who were not able to receive the first vaccine in the two clinic they conducted here, and for new residents/staff. The County Emergency Management Director does not have helpful information. We have tried to get information from the PA. Department of Health to no avail. The public still does not have wide-spread availability to get vaccines either, though information on sites is slowing coming to the public’s awareness.

Sunday is Valentine’s Day and we will assure that every resident gets a Valentine beyond the many that will be arriving from you or others via mail or from local florists. The Activity Department is also planning a Mardi Gras celebration before Ash Wednesday, which is February 17. Watch our Facebook for postings. God bless you all, please stay safe and continue to pray for us. Happy Valentine’s Day!

*Sr. Joachim Anne, administrator*