

February 17, 2021

To the families of the residents at Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies

The fact that I have not sent you an update in a whole week is a good thing. We hope we have finally stabilized in our efforts to control the recent Covid-19 outbreak.

- **At this time we have no residents and no staff members who are Covid positive.**
- All the units in the Nursing Home are deemed GREEN zone status, as is Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence.
- The only residents quarantined are those who are newly admitted and those who have recently returned from the hospital. The quarantine period ranges 10-14 days.
- We completed the Covid vaccination program for residents and staff on February 13. We continue to plan for a way to have new residents and new staff vaccinated in the future.
- Because the Blair County positivity rate remained below 10% for three weeks, (7.6% currently) and we have no outbreak within the facility, we are only required to test staff for Covid-19 once weekly and test residents only if they are out of the facility. All staff tested negative Feb. 16, 2021.
- As much as possible we continue to keep residents separated by the unit on which they reside to decrease the chance of exposure to the virus. That means residents mingle with the other residents of their same unit while at small group activities, in the dining room for meals, while attending services in the Chapel or when going to the Beauty -Barber Salon. We still maintain the recommended 6 feet physical distance from each other. Residents should wear masks when out of their rooms, except when eating.
- Staff, throughout the facility, continue to wear appropriate personal protective equipment as required by Department of Health directives, including masking at all times. We still follow recommended infection control practices and procedures throughout the facility. .
- We will begin a more relaxed procedure for family visiting soon for the Nursing Home residents. Our Lady of the Alleghenies began a more relaxed visiting procedure this week. We know many of you are anxious to have face to face (rather than window) visits. We will inform you via a new letter when this will be possible and the need for scheduling visits as you are doing now for virtual and window visits.
- Relaxing of any quarantine measures is dependent on us maintaining a Covid-free environment with no positive cases among residents or staff. We also have certain restrictions imposed should the County positivity rate go over 10% again.

We have worked hard, and prayed harder that we could overcome the outbreak that affected us for so many weeks. We continue to pray that we can maintain this Covid-free status. We will remain vigilant to identify any problems quickly so as to contain any spread. Keeping the

community spread rate (positivity rate) low is a key factor. Having some protection from the vaccine is also a very important factor.

I hope that the present inclement weather does not impact you in a negative way. As we begin the Liturgical Season of Lent today, Ash Wednesday, I pray that we all will have a peaceful and prayerful Lenten season as to prepare for the celebration of Easter.

God bless you all and please, stay safe.

Sr. Joachim Anne, Administrator