

April 22, 2021

To the Families of our residents in Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence,

As you are no doubt aware, the positivity rate in Blair County rose significantly last week up to 9.6%. The cases reported at the county and regional area daily continue to be high and outbreaks are reported in various schools and others place. Our staff, even though they take the necessary precautions while at work and in their personal lives, are members of the community with the rising cases, they are often parents with children in the schools where the outbreaks happen and have spouses and adult children in workplaces throughout the region. Even though well over half of the staff have been vaccinated, they are still subject to exposures and anyone can be an asymptomatic carrier of the virus. We continue to vaccinate new residents and staff who want to receive the vaccine. We strongly encourage, but do not mandate the vaccine due to the nature of the vaccine being so new. Many people have strong reservations about the vaccine and personal medical conditions that make it inadvisable. The vaccine is the best defense we have against this ever-spreading virus, though we have experienced a few vaccinated persons testing positive. We are as vigilant as we can be with daily screening, twice weekly testing, comprehensive infection control practices and appropriate quarantine periods.

I am sorry to have to inform you that during the first Covid testing of staff this week, one staff member tested positive, potentially causing exposure of residents in Garvey Manor Nursing Home. This potential exposure will extend the Nursing Home quarantine out another two weeks. All residents in the facility have been tested and remain Covid negative. Staff will be tested again on Friday, April 23, and again twice next week. While we are saddened by the positive test result, we are glad we are identifying cases quickly and quarantining the positive carrier aware from work and containing prolonged exposure within the facility. We are very grateful that the residents all remain negative.

We will be sending a separate notice out the families of Residents in Our Lady of the Alleghenies about the trial of a new scheduling tool we will be using to schedule visits in the future. The families of residents in the Nursing Home will receive this at a later date when in-person visits are again permissible.

Many of you received notice that it is now required when making a local call the area code (814) must be dialed before the number is dialed. Within our phone systems we have programmed this in so that residents or staff making calls from within the Garvey Manor phone system DO NOT have to take this extra step when dialing a number. This is helping many residents to maintain the ability to call family members directly without having to learn this new step. Long distance calls still require the 1- (area code) before dialing the actual number. Our receptionist assists many residents to make long distance calls. Residents who use cell phones will have to learn the

new skill set of the required area code when making local calls, unless it has already been entered into their phones.

We continue to receive many items for residents in the canopy at the back of our building. Please remember, and inform other family members, that any item for a resident **MUST** be in a plastic bag, tied shut, with the resident's name and the name of the person sending the item on the outside of the bag. Unfortunately residents have not received some items that are unmarked and we have no means of tracking who they are for or who they are from.

We know the longer this pandemic goes on the harder it is on everyone. We wish it were otherwise, but we can only do what we are directed to do and what we believe is in the best interest of everyone. We are using the best due diligence we have and appreciate your prayers, understanding and support. God bless you and please stay vigilant and stay well if possible.

Sr. Joachim Anne

Administrator