

August 17, 2021

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

As you know, Covid 19 cases are increasing in our county, across the state, and throughout the country. The spread in our region is now considered substantial and there is a high risk that anyone of us can be exposed to the **highly contagious Covid-19 Delta variant** from someone who does not know they are a carrier or that they have the virus without having symptoms yet.

Unfortunately, yesterday, August 16, we were informed of a potential exposure to Covid-19 on the C-2 unit of the Nursing Home. We immediately put advanced infection control precautions into place on the C-2 unit in order to control potential spread, should the exposure turn out to be credible.

C-2 is now designated a **YELLOW ZONE** (meaning a possible Covid exposure). The unit is in quarantine. Being a "YELLOW ZONE" means that we initiated the following precautions for residents who reside on the C-2 unit and for staff who work on that unit:

- All residents currently on C-2 were tested late afternoon August 16 and all tested negative. All staff who work on C-2 are being tested at this time. All facility staff will be tested next week. We will inform you if there is a positive case identified.
- Additional and more wide-spread resident and/or staff testing will be conducted as required or warranted.
- All residents are being closely monitored each shift for signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Residents are required to stay in their rooms, or at least, within the parameters of the C-2 Unit. Residents must remain social distanced from others, and wear a mask, if possible, when in contact with others and if they must leave the unit. Residents can only leave the C-2 unit for medical or emergency reasons.
- Meals are being served to residents in their rooms.
- Employees are wearing personal protective equipment (gowns, face shields, masks) when on the unit in contact with residents. Only essential staff are on the unit.
- In-person visits by families are suspended until further notice. Virtual visits may be scheduled by calling (814) 317-1231 or by visiting our website. Calls will be returned in the order in which they were received.
- At this time, any scheduled medical outings will remain as scheduled. ALL NON-MEDICAL OUTINGS are suspended until further notice.

The other units in the Nursing Home remain GREE ZONES, meaning no known exposure. Residents are able to be out of their rooms for activities, to sit out of doors, to eat in the dining rooms etc. In-person visits are still permitted for resident who reside on those units.

At this time, Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence is also designated a **YELLOW ZONE**, as we informed you the end of last week. Residents are quarantined because of potential exposure.

We continue to closely monitor for any potential exposures to the virus: * screening all staff, residents and visitors, *asking that anyone who is showing any symptoms that could potentially be related to the virus report to us and not come to our facility (staff or visitors), * asking that staff and visitors report to us promptly if they think they have been, or may have been exposed to a person with active Covid, *advocating that everyone get vaccinated – that is our greatest protection against the virus and the only way the virus will eventually be eradicated.

Thank you for your understanding during these difficult times. We continue to do all that we can to protect our residents and employees. Please continue to be cautious and diligent with your own protective measures as you go through your daily life and business in the community. As always, we ask for your prayers.

Thank you and may God bless you and keep you safe.

Sister Joachim Anne, O. Carm.

Administrator