

August 13, 2021

To families of the Residents at Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies,

It has been several weeks since I sent a general update note. The past weeks have been a time of relaxed visiting schedules for our residents throughout the complex. We know that many of you and extended family members have enjoyed visits here or have taken your loved one off the premise for a non-medically related outing.

Unfortunately, as you know from local media reports, the Covid situation in our community is trending in the wrong direction as the number of confirmed cases increases again. The numbers of critically ill patients in area hospitals have also increased radically.

Families of residents who reside in Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence were informed Wednesday, August 11, that two residents were exposed to Covid due to encounters with persons from outside our facility. As a result, all of **Our Lady of the Alleghenies** is now designated a **YELLOW ZONE**, which means potential exposure to the Covid virus. Our Lady of the Alleghenies and all the residents who reside there are now in quarantine. In-person visits have been suspended, as are non-medically related outings. All residents and staff tested negative for Covid, and all will be tested again at several day intervals as we closely monitor the situation during the first 14 days of this quarantine period. We will inform you if conditions change.

Garvey Manor Nursing Home is still designated a GREEN ZONE. Residents can still receive scheduled visitors. Please remember that requests for non-medically related outings as well as in-person visits **MUST BE SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE**. We are monitoring our situation closely and seriously observing all infection control measures. We will keep you informed if anything changes. Scheduled visits and outings are subject to change.

On another note, it is a well-known fact that many businesses locally, and throughout the country, are experiencing severe staff shortages. Healthcare facilities, in general, are severely impacted. We are not exempt from this. We currently have several vacant positions and are actively doing all we can to recruit, hire and train new staff to fill them. We are recruiting and hiring positions for nurses (LPN and RN), nursing assistants, dietary and housekeeping aides. We also have part time availability for 'Care Helpers'. A Care Helper is a non-skilled person who assists on nursing units, helping nursing assistants by doing various tasks. Care Helpers can make beds, assist during residents' meal time, transport residents to functions within the house, provide guided activities to engage residents. Students or more mature people often fill these

part time positions with flexible hours. Care Helpers usually find the interactions with the residents very rewarding. For many young people (at least 16 years of age) this is their first job.

We do not want residents' care and services compromised because of challenges in maintaining full staffing quotas. We are very grateful for and commend the dedication and generosity of our current "SUPER HERO" staff who step up to the plate and fill in for vacant shifts in various departments. We are meeting the staffing expectations of the Department of Health, but our preferred staffing levels exceed their directives.

We will be holding a job fair for the public on August 19, 2021. We encourage you to refer anybody that you know who may be seeking employment in a facility, such as ours, where caring for others in a compassionate and professional manner is participating in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. You have a vested interest in helping us to bring our staffing quotas to ideal levels. Applicants can call our Kristy Yingling, our HR Recruiter at Garvey Manor (814 695 5571) or go to our website (www.garveymanor.org) to get a job application.

We will keep you informed of any Covid related changes that arise as we continue through this long pandemic. Please keep us in your prayers. We sincerely appreciate your support and understanding as we strive to provide the best possible, personalized care and services to your loved one. God bless you and please, STAY SAFE!!

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator