

November 9, 2021,

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

It has been a few weeks since I sent you an update (10/15/21). Since then, in our twice weekly Covid-19 testing for unvaccinated staff and periodic testing of persons reporting symptoms, we identified 3 people who tested positive. Each of these had limited exposure to residents during their contagious period and, therefore, we have not had to quarantine any of our units. Only one resident is in quarantine as a result of potential exposure. Periodically a fully vaccinated person tests positive. We pray we will remain Covid free, without an outbreak among residents or staff that would require wide spread quarantine resulting in our need to limit visiting.

On November 5, the Federal Government's CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicare), which regulates long term care as well as other sectors of healthcare, issued their [Vaccine Mandate, Interim Final Rule](#). This puts into action specific time frames when staff in all facilities, such as ours, and other places as well, must be vaccinated unless a validated medical or religious exemption can be accommodated. We continue to work with our staff who are not yet vaccinated, encouraging them to comply. We value and need all staff and do not want to lose any as a result of their non-compliance with the mandate. Please pray we have a smooth transition in fulfilling this mandate. If you wish to read the Government's 276 page Rule, or the 11 page Summary in the form of FAQ's, you can find them on the Government Website [Federal Register :: Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination](#). OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Admin) also issued their vaccine mandate regulations for any business employing over 100 people. While we also come under this rule, we are held to the higher standards of the CMS rule.

As I reported to you in the last newsletter, we continue to consolidate room vacancies in order to better utilize staff. This process will result in one nursing unit temporarily vacated as we reduce our census by about 18 persons.

The Covid-19 virus continues to rage in our community with the Positivity Rate over 12%: Blair County's report from last week record 563 new Covid cases, 64 people hospitalized, 19 on ventilators and 11 deaths all within one week. Over the weekend, 250 people were reported positive with 3 additional deaths.

Please remember to remain vigilant, especially when outside of your home and immediate family group and when associating with a wider circle of people. **DO NOT VISIT US IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO OR MIGHT HAVE COVID** – even mild cold symptom, sore throat, vague fatigue, loss of taste, headache can be Covid.

On the 19th of this month we will hold the drawing for those who are participating in our annual fund raising event – **The Garvey Manor 500+ Club**. THANK YOU to all who have contributed to our appeal for our Benevolent Care Fund. Winners of the drawing will be announced on our website www.garveymanor.org posted on our Facebook page, and sent out via this email list. Residents benefit directly from the Benevolent Care Fund.

IF you are doing any shopping online this year, please use
Choose Garvey Manor as your charity of choice. We receive a cash back gift for every purchase made when we are chosen as the charity of choice. We appreciate any and all donations.



God bless you, **stay safe,**

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator