

December 15, 2021

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

Another week has passed and the Covid situation in our region continues to be at a very high level with the **positivity rate over 15%**. Our local hospitals are at critical levels of occupancy with many beds for people with Covid. The emergency rooms are overwhelmed with people who often wait exceedingly long to be seen. It is a health risk to be in the waiting room! I cannot stress enough the need to be cautious, overly protective, vigilant and attentive to infection prevention measures when interacting with others, and especially when coming to our facility to visit loved ones or to take residents out for holiday visits and family gatherings. And PLEASE If you are not, get vaccinated!

One staff member tested positive yesterday. Though that person worked the day prior to testing positive, exposure of residents and staff did not result in any positive cases or the need to quarantine. Residents who may have been exposed were tested once, so far. No other staff members tested positive.

With Christmas a week away, it has been a busy time for everyone. We are very glad that so many residents have been able to have visitors, to get their rooms decorated, and to enjoy the spirit of Christmas throughout the house. We decorated the house in our usual flair this year so residents and visitors can enjoy the *Sights of the Season*. Our Activity Department has been able to facilitate special in house pre-Christmas programs and have arranged several evening bus outings to see the 'Lights on the Lake' at Lakemont Park. The residents have thoroughly enjoyed these experiences. These 'normal' aspects of the Christmas Season were so lacking last year. They have brought back a welcome spirit of joy to all. BUT we are still in the midst of the pandemic and must not let our infection prevention guard down.

I will personally thank the families who have so generously contributed to the Employee Christmas Luncheon which will take place this Friday. Your names, greetings and affirming messages will be posted for the staff. Staff will be treated to a hot meal and even each will receive a token Christmas gift. Thank you on behalf of all the 'Super Heroes' who continue to provide care and services to our residents every day and every night throughout the pandemic. If anyone else wishes to express their Christmas greeting and gratitude to the staff we ask that a gift be sent to Garvey Manor with the notation of the purpose. Staff cannot have food treats on the resident units as they are not permitted to unmask to eat there at any time.

We must pray, with Hope, that we can return to a healthier state of affairs and that our country and the world will know greater peace, unity and more normal living conditions soon.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the year to come.



May Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas, bless you.

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator