

January 28, 2022

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

The Covid-19 Omicron variant continues to sweep through our community with staggering numbers of new cases reported every day. We are pleased to report that residents who had tested positive in the last two weeks have recovered and no others tested positive in the latest testing on Thursday. Residents will be tested again next week.

We wish we had the same news regarding staff but, unfortunately, eight additional staff members tested positive in the past week. They are off work for the required quarantine period.

January 26, 2022 was the final date for staff to have received at least the first shot of one of the Covid -19 vaccines. We are glad that most of our staff complied with the vaccine mandate, or obtained approved exemptions from the vaccine according to the federal government's guidance. Unfortunately, about twelve staff members chose to leave our employment rather than receive a vaccine. We support the fact that, even if not mandated by the federal government, mandating the vaccine for all staff is the right thing to do. This is one of the greatest protections from spread of the Virus that we have, along with responsible infection control practices. All newly hired staff and supplemental staff coming to us from staffing agencies must be vaccinated as well. Any volunteers, contract staff and other providers who have close and frequent contact with residents and/or staff must also be vaccinated.

While we cannot mandate that residents' visitor be vaccinated, we strongly advise, that if YOU are not vaccinated, that you please get vaccinated. We know residents are vulnerable and at risk of getting the virus, even if vaccinated, as we experienced in the recent outbreak that started about two weeks after Christmas. During the holiday season we had many visitors in the house. Added protection from ANYONE coming into the facility is a help. Visitors who are not vaccinated present a higher risk to our residents and to our staff. Again, I remind you **PLEASE DO NOT VISIT IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF A COLD OR DO NOT FEEL WELL.** The FLU is also spreading throughout the community and we do not want to have an outbreak of this either.

We continue to recruit, hire, orient and train new staff, especially in light of losing those who would not be vaccinated. We appreciate your understanding, patience and support as we balance staff to assure residents receive the care and services they require. We are very grateful to our 'Super Hero' veteran staff who have picked up additional time to help assure we have adequate staff on duty at all times.

God bless you and STAY SAFE!

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator