

May 13, 2022

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

It has been a very busy week as we celebrated, in a limited way, Long Term Care Week during Older Americans' Month. Though we were not able to have all the interactive, special events that would have brought residents from various units of the house together with staff for fun and bonding activities, there was still a festive atmosphere as we respected the need for infection control guidelines given the current Covid status. Many residents enjoyed Mother's Day visits in person last Sunday as the week started, and since the weather was pristine this week, residents were able to get outside with a staff member to enjoy the fresh air and the sights and sounds of spring all around us. It is unfortunate that the **C-1 unit of the Nursing Home remains a Yellow Zone**. The residents on that unit are not able to leave the unit yet, but were included, as they were able, in special activities. We will make it up to them once the unit is Covid-free. The date the Yellow Zone status will be lifted has not yet determined since there are still active Covid cases among the residents.

During Covid testing, conducted this past week on Monday and Thursday,

- Additional positive cases among residents were identified on the C-1 unit and two cases on the D-2 unit.
  - The D-2 unit is NOT a Yellow Zone at this time.
- Two residents in Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence tested positive.
  - We are limiting the circulation of resident of Our Lady of the Alleghenies throughout the house, at this time, to be sure we do not have a wider outbreak.
- Two additional staff members tested positive. Several remain off work due to previous positive results or potential symptoms.
- We have taken measures to address the bad batch of rapid test kits that resulted in false positive results last week.

We know the number of cases in the community continue to escalate and many people spread the virus because they do not know they are positive for the Covid because symptoms can be so subtle. We will be cautiously monitoring for cases developing after so many visitors were in the facility over Mother's Day weekend and many residents went out for family visits.

We ask again, please let us know if a resident has been potentially exposed to a visitor who develops symptoms of even a common cold or who tests positive for Covid. It is important for us to limit those residents' activities with other vulnerable residents so as to avoid additional outbreaks of positive cases among residents.

Thank you for your support and ongoing cooperation in helping us to deal with the ongoing effects of the Pandemic. It is sobering to know over one million people have died in our country because of it and even more distressing to remember those residents of Garvey Manor who contributed to that awful statistic. Please keep us in your prayers and please be safe and cautious in your interactions with others.

*Sister Joachim Anne*, Administrator