

May 4, 2022,

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

As the impact of the increase in community-wide cases of Covid-19 continues in our region, we are sorry to have to report that additional cases have been reported within our facility.

- Three additional residents in the Nursing Home tested positive. They all reside on the same unit (C-1), as previously reported.
- One resident in Our Lady of the Alleghenies tested positive.
- Three additional staff persons tested positive.

We will continue to monitor the situation, test anyone who is showing symptoms, and reinforce infection control measures.

We anticipate that there will be many family members who plan to visit over the upcoming Mothers' Day weekend. We certainly want our residents to have visitors, but we are also compelled to decrease the potential for an exposure of anyone to Covid. This includes visitors who may potentially be exposed while in our facility as well as visitors potentially exposing residents or our staff to Covid by coming to our facility.

Please be aware of the following that remain in effect:

- ✓ Because we have active cases of Covid within the facility, we advise anyone who visits of their own personal risk of exposure to the virus.
- ✓ Compliance with the Core Principles of Infection Control, as posted at the entrances to the facility, is required. This includes MASKING AT ALL TIMES when visiting, frequent hand hygiene and maintaining a safe social distance.
- ✓ All visitors to the Nursing Home or Our Lady of the Alleghenies must go directly to the resident's rooms to visit, and must visit in the room with the door closed. Special arrangement to visit other than in a resident's room must be premade.
- ✓ **NO ONE SHOULD COME TO VISIT if they have any symptoms of a common cold, or otherwise do not feel well, or if the visitor has been in close contact with someone who has symptoms of a common cold or is not feeling well.**
- ✓ PLEASE report to us if you become ill or test positive for Covid after visiting our facility so that we can more closely monitor the resident who may have been exposed to the virus.
- ✓ The limit is two visitors at a time to residents in the Nursing Home due to the size of the residents' rooms and the need to social distance, as required by the Core Principles of Infection Control. The maximum is four visitors at a time to residents in Our Lady of the Alleghenies due to the larger size of the residents' rooms still accommodate social distances.
- ✓ The C-1 Unit in the Nursing Home remains a **Yellow Zone**. We discourage, but do not prohibit, visitors to that unit. Those who choose to visit, must check with the staff upon entering the unit and must wear the required personal protective equipment, including a gown, while on the unit.
- ✓ Residents from the C-1 Unit cannot leave the unit to circulate anywhere else in the facility.

May is celebrated as Older Americans' Month throughout the country. The week of May 8 – 14 is dedicated to those who live or work in Long Term Care Facilities, such as ours. While we had hoped to be able to have several special programs for our residents and staff, we are required to re-think ideas because of the present outbreak. We will be scaling back our celebrations to be cautious while still providing modified, special events daily to recognize and celebrate the special people who live and work in Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence.

One such event in the course of the week will be recognition of the tenure of staff who have achieved 5 year increment anniversaries of employment with us. 78 staff members are included having achieved 5 years (25 people), 10 years (18), 15 years (14), 20 years (9), 25 years (2), 30 years (2), 35 years (4), 40 years (3) and our longest term employee, achieving 48 years of service this year. God bless them and all our staff.

Staff really appreciate any thanks or affirmation that comes from families. If you are visiting, a greeting from you, the family members of our residents, would be welcome. We have all been through two very challenging years. Staff have been incredibly dedicated and generous with their time to assure that the residents receive the personalized care and services they want and deserve. Many give up their own vacation time, special family events and days off to be here with our residents. We are blessed to have so many who have such commitment to our Mission and know that newer staff being hired can learn from them what makes Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies a true HOME for our residents.

Please continue to pray that we can get through this present outbreak quickly and return to a more relaxed level of daily routines. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

To all of you who are Mothers, a very Happy and Blessed Mothers' Day!

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator.