

July 21, 2022

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

I am pleased to report to you that we have emerged from the recent Covid outbreak that we experienced among residents and staff of Our Lady of the Alleghenies. At this time, all residents have been released from restrictions and all staff have returned to work. We have had a few additional staff present with symptoms or tested positive, but they have not affected residents and have only had limited exposure to others.

We remain concerned and vigilant because of the rise in the number of Covid positive cases in our region. The present rate in the County (Blair) is 9%, which is high. Remember YOU are not exempt from getting Covid!

- The present strain of the virus first presents itself with allergy or vague cold symptoms.
- Sometimes the symptoms go on to develop into a more classical 'Cold', sometimes they do not.
- Residents who acquire Covid usually have other medical conditions, are weak and compromised or have cardiac/respiratory problems and they can become seriously sick and can die as a result. The risk is for any residents is great and must be taken very seriously.
 - We monitor residents and staff who have even vague symptoms, test often and isolate those with positive results or suspicious symptoms to prevent spread to others.

It is very important for you to be careful and vigilant as well. YOU are not exempt from getting Covid!

- PLEASE do not visit if you have any symptoms whatsoever, and advise other family members of the same. It is better to prevent than to treat the virus. Too often visitors come in with symptoms and are not reporting them on the sign in/screening system meant to identify risk.
- If you visited, or have a resident out for a visit and the resident is potentially exposed to someone who has even vague symptoms. PLEASE REPORT the circumstances to us so that we can closely monitor, frequently test the resident and separate him/her from others, if necessary.
- We must still maintain the restrictions that are posted at the front of the entrances to our building. The number of persons who may visit at any one time (2 if visiting the nursing home, 4 if visiting in Our Lady of the Alleghenies) remain in place. Additional visitors arriving when someone is in the room cannot wait in the hallways. They must remain outside building or at best, in the case of extreme weather, in the lobby until the first visitors come to sign out. Any requests for more visitors at one time must be requested in advanced and approved by Administration based on circumstances and alternate rooms available to accommodate more than the set number of visitors based on social distance guideline.
- WHEN VISITING WITH RESIDENTS OUTSIDE.
 - Please be considerate of our staff and others who visit after you. Replace any chairs that you move to the place where you found them.
 - Do not pull chairs together and sit in such a way as to block the pathway of others coming into the building.
 - After visiting and before you leave the area, YOU MUST wipe off any chairs used, especially the arms and other parts handled, with disinfectant wipes available in the foyer of both entrances. This is to prevent the potential transmission of the virus.
- We appreciate your cooperation and efforts to help us keep residents and staff safe as possible. We know that sometimes we cannot control the circumstances that result in exposure to the virus, but we must do what we can to decrease risk.

On another note, the restoration after the flood of water on our Concourse level continues in a systematic manner. It will still be several weeks until we are able to access the Concourse for normal activities.

Thank you and God bless you. Stay Safe!

Sister Joachim Anne, O. Carm. Administrator