

August, 17, 2022

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

Unfortunately, I am sending this update to inform you of the increased cases of Covid-19 we are experiencing once again. This past week, 5 of our staff members, two therapists, one person who works through an agency and two residents in the nursing home on the E-2/C-2 units, tested positive. Other residents have been exposed to some of the positive cases. While we have not had to quarantine a whole unit, we are being very cautious in keeping residents who have been exposed and especially those are not up-to-date in their vaccine status distanced from other residents. We tested residents on four of the nursing home units (D-1, D-2, C-2 and E-2), today and will repeat testing as necessary. We discourage anyone who is immunocompromised and also anyone who is not fully up-to-date on vaccines from visiting that units affected due to the risk of exposure that can lead to contracting Covid.

Covid is still prevalent in the community. Residents are at risk of severe complications if they contract Covid. Most cases reported now are symptomatic of a common cold. Do not visit if you have cold symptoms.

I must restate a few restrictions that, at times, are being overlooked or disregarded by some visitors. We are still under guidelines from the Dept. of Health and/or CDC that do not always apply to people who live in the general community, **but do apply to residents, staff AND VISITORS to our facility:**

- Masks must be worn at all times when in the facility. A clean, disposable mask must be put on when coming into the building. These are provided in the foyer or on the screening table near the sign in kiosk. If you wish to wear your own mask, we ask you to put a clean disposable mask over your own mask. You may take the mask with you when you leave, or dispose of it in one of the trash receptacles in the foyer or on the porch after you exit the lobby.
- Visits must take place in the resident's room, behind closed doors, unless you choose to visit with the resident outside, in which case we ask that you go directly to the outdoor place where you will be visiting, not stopping to talk to other residents or families. Please do not stop to visit in the lobby, hallway or any other place where people may be present for other purposes or closely passing by.
- Visitors in the nursing home are limited to 2 at any time, unless prearrangements are made for more than two, and then the visit must be outside or, in some circumstances, in a space larger than the resident's room that is prearranged by staff. Visitors to OLAR are limited to 4 persons at a time.
- After visiting outside, please get a disposable disinfecting cleaning cloth provided in the solution container with a blue top located on the table in the foyer to wipe off the chairs you used. Gloves are provided so that the solution in the container does not get on your hands. If you move chairs around during your visit, please replace them to the place you found them. Do not block access to the entrance by sitting in the walkway to the front doors or in an area where people must pass closely by you.

REGARDING PACKAGE DELIVERIES: We know that families bring in many items for residents when they visit. That is permitted, but please do not bring in anything that is intended for another resident. If you are bringing something for a resident:

- IF POSSIBLE, bring item to resident, delivering directly to the resident's room.
- If you cannot take items to the resident yourself, drop off any large items, or multiple items at one time in the canopy (tent) located in the loading dock area, making sure the resident's name, room number and your name and contact number are secured to the items. Items will be delivered to residents within 48 hours.
- Small items, such as an envelope, mail (properly addressed for the resident), glasses, hearing aids, etc. can be given to the Receptionist in the Garvey Manor Lobby to be delivered to the resident. Unless it is necessary for the resident to receive the item immediately (such as glasses or hearing aids), items may

not be delivered until the next day. Again, make sure the resident's full name is on the item (we have more than one resident with some surnames as well as first names, last initials, and many "Grandmas").

BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE FLOODING OF JUNE 22, THE CONCOURSE LEVEL OF THE FACILITY REMAINS OFF LIMITS TO ALL RESIDENTS, VISITORS & MOST STAFF, except the Loretto Terrace section of OLAR that was not affected by the water. Recovery and restoration are works in progress.

- In most areas dry wall replacement is complete and painting is being done.
- Hand rails are being installed in hallways.
- All carpeted floors have to be replaced. Carpets have been removed, but new flooring is not down yet.
- We have to replace cabinets in areas such as, bathrooms, kitchenettes, the therapy suite and the beauty parlor. These are not ready yet.
- Facility supply storerooms are still relocated to the E-1 unit.
- We do not have a confirmed date when the work will be complete and the Concourse will be accessible.

We continue to face the challenges that are presented to us, while maintaining as 'normal' operations as possible. Residents are getting outside for picnics, outings for ice cream and engaging in limited group activities. Our primary focus is not to have the challenges we face take away from their care, service and amenities that are so meaning to the residents' everyday living.

Thank you for your support and understanding. **Please pass this information on to other family members who are not on our email list.**

Keep us in your prayers and God bless you all.

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator