

June 9, 2023

To the residents and family members of Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies,

It has been a few weeks since my last update. Last month our residents and staff enjoyed many events as we celebrated **Older Americans' Month**, with our theme a '*Land Cruise on the USS Garvey*'. We were pleased that several family members were able to participate in some events since we can finally allow family members to be at gatherings where other residents are present. During this "Post Covid Pandemic" re-entry into a more normal life-style, small steps are a 'big deal' when they help residents engage with others. If you have not done so, visit us on facebook to see pictures of some of the events held while we were 'on the cruise'. A huge THANK YOU goes out to our Activity Dept. staff and to many others, who made all the events possible and so much fun. The residents really enjoyed the diversity of activities!!

Even though the three year long, Covid Public Health Emergency, as declared by the CDC and the PA Dept. of Health, is 'officially over', we still must follow infection prevention guidance. Covid is still present in the community and a concern for us as we try to protect our residents. I am sorry to report, that after two months of being Covid-free, one staff member tested Covid-positive today.

- We are testing residents and staff members who may have been exposed, and will be taking special precautions on the C-1 unit of the Nursing Home. No residents have tested positive at this time
- We do not have to restrict residents to their unit, but will try to keep the residents who reside on C-1 distanced from other residents or have them wear masks, until we are certain there has been no transmission.
- Families who visit on the C-1 unit are advised to take reasonable precautions. You will be asked to mask when you come to visit on C-1. Please maintain a social distance from others, use frequent hand hygiene and answer all questions at the sign in kiosk relating to Covid exposure/symptoms.
- **PLEASE DO NOT VISIT** if you have any symptoms that may be Covid. The current strain presents with congestion, headache, fatigue. Given that this is high allergy season and many people may have symptoms due to the poor air quality, it is easy to overlook potential Covid symptoms.
- **Please inform us if you have any concerns, are exposed to or test positive for Covid.**

The current air quality in our region is a concern to all who are vulnerable to respiratory issues. We are advising residents not to sit outside at this time. Since it has been so cool, most want to stay in anyway. Once the air quality clears, and the temperature return to pre-summer levels, we know residents will want to get outside again as much as possible. We encourage this and hope families will take residents outside during visits.

We apologize that the large temporary chiller unit, located near the front entrance at the far end of the parking lot, is so noisy. This unit is supplementing the remaining, single chiller unit to keep the building comfortable. As I told you previously, one of the two chiller units is dysfunctional and needs to be replaced. This is a complex process that will take several months to accomplish. Those who wish to be outside in the nice weather can enjoy a quieter environment in one of the courtyards – accessed near the nursing home first floor dining room or the main courtyard, accessed on the Concourse near Carmel Hall. Our Lady of the Alleghenies residents & families can use the Loretto Terrace courtyard or the main courtyard accessed near the OLAR main dining room.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is implementing some changes to the Nursing Home Regulations, effective July 1, 2023. Among other measures, we are in the process of updating the Nursing Home Residents' Handbook to include changes. This will be sent to the person primarily responsible for each resident, once it is completed. You may also be receiving the revised Residents' Rights soon. This is an important document that should be read. Residents who are able to understand the information will receive it directly as well. For efficiency, environmental and cost reasons, we hope to send the information electronically, rather than in paper format. Watch for this within the next few weeks.

Thank you for your attention to all this information. Be safe and God Bless you!



Administrator