

January 25, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

As I write this update, I am happy to share with you some good news. First and foremost, after several weeks of testing, all our Residents on the nursing units and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor remain Covid-free. This completes their testing since their results for two consecutive weeks have been negative.

Secondly, our staff and Sisters have had negative test results as well for two consecutive weeks which now allows our lockdown to be lifted. Only one staff member has tested positive for Covid-19 on January 18, but this person has been on vacation and was not in contact with the Residents at any time prior to that. That individual has been asymptomatic and will remain isolated for 10 days from the day of positive test results.

Because of these favorable results, D.C. Health and the Epidemiology team have allowed us to re-enter Phase 2 of the Reopening Guidance for Nursing Facilities. As you may recall, the Residents are now permitted to resume communal dining and small group activities with no more than 10 Residents, always wearing a facial mask, respecting social distancing, proper hand hygiene and complete disinfection measures. We will continue to monitor the Residents for any signs and symptoms each shift.

We may also resume window visits on the ground floor. Visits are limited to 30 minutes and must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. Please contact Maggie Drew, Administrative Assistant via email @ [sswashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:sswashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org) or via phone at 202-269-1831. Additional guidance for the Visitation Policy may be found on our Home's website [www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org).

We wish to remind you that Francine Whitley, our Activity Director, is also available to arrange Zoom conferences and FaceTime to help you connect virtually with your loved one. We encourage you to keep scheduling these calls by contacting her at [actwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:actwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org) or at the above phone number. They are so valuable in brightening the Residents' days.

Lastly, our partnership with Walgreens for the first clinic to administer the Covid-19 vaccine has begun on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, with subsequent clinic dates on February 19 and March 19. This includes all our Residents in the nursing units, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and apartments as well as staff members and Sisters. As a result of everyone's cooperation and collaboration, the Home (Residents, staff, and Sisters) is more than 90% vaccinated at this time! We will still maintain weekly testing for the staff and Sisters as protocol, even after the vaccination is initiated and will remain vigilant so as not to let our guard down in order to maintain a safe environment throughout our Home. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Daisy Alzate, RN or Sister Alphonse Marie.

Join us in living a "Year of Hope 2021" as we continue our efforts to protect ourselves and our Residents from Covid-19!

God bless you,

Sr. Mary Michael and all the Little Sisters