

January 8, 2022

Dear Families and Friends,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable Christmas. We were happy to see many of you during the holidays as you visited your loved one here at Jeanne Jugan Residence, despite the ongoing challenges of this pandemic. We put our hope and trust in God and ask for his continued protection during this New Year 2022.

As you are aware, all the Residents, Sisters, and most staff received the COVID-19 booster vaccine on December 3, 2021. We are doing everything we can to ward off this “invisible” enemy and keep each other safe.

Over the past few weeks, some of our staff members have been exposed to the new variant, requiring them to take necessary precautions to quarantine at home. Likewise, those who have travelled have returned to work after procuring a negative test result as per our policy.

This week one Resident in the nursing unit had been observed with cold-like symptoms, which justified being tested for COVID-19. Unfortunately, this Resident’s test results were positive and so they were immediately isolated. The staff is following protocol for wearing full PPE (personal protective equipment) while giving care to this individual.

Following the guidance of the epidemiology team at DC Health, our Home immediately went into **Outbreak Initiation Phase** and tested all other Residents in the nursing unit, as well as the staff and Sisters. We await these results which will determine further action.

Until we can ascertain the extent of the outbreak, DC Health has advised us to limit and strongly discourage:

- communal dining
- non-medical personal care services (i.e. beautician)
- group activities
- Resident outings and field trips

On a positive note, even though the Residents on the nursing units may not currently circulate around the Home, they may walk in the hallways on their units while assuring infection control precautions and respecting social distancing. We also have the opportunity to view all chapel services, as well as various live broadcasts and entertainments, through our newly installed CCTV system viewed in each Resident’s room.

Residents may still receive visitors and we would like you to be aware that based on CDC guidance we have instituted a new screening tool to be filled out upon your arrival at the Home. We ask that:

- if you are symptomatic, you will be refused entry;
- strict infection control procedures must be maintained;

- you monitor symptoms for 14 days after the visit and notify the Home if you become symptomatic.

Please note the following additional points regarding visitation:

- Visitors *will not* be denied entrance to the Home based on vaccination status.
- Obviously there is a risk for visitation when there is COVID in a facility.
- Your forthrightness when filling out the screening tool is crucial in helping us do our utmost to protect the Residents.
- We would appreciate your full cooperation in wearing a face mask at all times throughout the duration of your visit and in remaining in the designated visitation areas.
- The activity department is always ready to facilitate a Zoom visit and the nurse on each unit can connect you to your loved one.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Daisy Alzate, RN or Sister Alphonse Marie. We will update you as soon as we are able to move forward into the next phase.

As we begin this New Year, we remain as vigilant as ever to assure the safety and well-being of our Residents and collaborators. Thank you once again for your support and understanding.

God bless you!

*Mother Mary Michael*