

May 5, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Friends of Jeanne Jugan Residence,

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to present many challenges, but I am relieved to report that this past week was calmer here at Jeanne Jugan Residence than the week before.

Between April 28 and May 4 only 1 new Resident was confirmed positive for Covid-19. No new staff members or Little Sisters fell ill in the last week. One Resident, who had been declining for several months, passed away here at the Home. Two Residents were hospitalized at the request of their representatives.

Staff in every department continue to follow all current directives recommended by DC Health, CDC and CMS. Efforts to educate, review and reinforce all procedures related to PPE and infection control have been intensified in the past week.

Staff temperatures are being taken 3 times per shift. Residents' temperatures and oxygen saturation levels are monitored on every shift, along with other signs and symptoms, including respiratory symptoms, changes in appetite, and general malaise or weakness.

Two specific new measures were instituted in the past week to limit the spread of the virus. The first of these is the use of a special disinfectant for the deep cleaning of Residents' rooms by our devoted housekeeping staff.

The second new initiative is the temporary redistribution of room assignments in order to group negative Residents in a different geographic zone from the Residents who have tested positive for the virus. Plastic sheeting has been hung to clearly designate a "clean zone," and although staffing is challenging during this time, we are managing to assign dedicated staff to both the Covid-positive and negative Residents.

We continue to receive donations in many forms and from many sources — thank God! Last week we were able to purchase 4 extra oxygen concentrators and other needed items. Not surprisingly, PPE continues to be a challenge. What seemed like a sufficient supply of PPE for our staff last week is quickly being consumed due to a burn rate of at least 154 isolation gowns per 24 hours due to our number of positive cases. DC Health, Johns Hopkins Health System, and others have donated some supplies, but we are using some of the monetary donations to purchase washable fluid-resistant precaution gowns for our staff. While waiting for these items, we are still in need of disposable isolation gowns, gloves, shoe and head coverings, and any type of hand sanitizer and hand wipes.

We are also in need of disposable paper goods, including 9" and 6" plates, soup bowls, plastic utensils, 8oz. hot cups, and napkins. The Residents are particularly enjoying the individually wrapped treats that have been donated — thank you for these donations!

Our activity staff continues to do all they can to keep the Residents happy. They are looking forward to a virtual violin concert that will be given via Zoom by a young man who reached out to us to share the gift of music as a school project.

As we look forward to Mother's Day we encourage you to keep in touch with your loved one in the Home, and with the rest of your family as well. We pray for God's protection for you and all your loved ones as we continue to do our best to care for the Residents; they and you are truly like family to us.

Sincerely,
Sr. Mary Michael and all the Little Sisters