

April 2, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

We are happy to give you an update regarding the recent testing of our staff and Sisters. All have received negative results for our COVID-19 testing for three consecutive weeks. Our first floor Residents who were recently quarantined are now able to profit once again of having their meals in the dining room as well as attending chapel services and small group activities.

Even though we have been fully vaccinated, we continue to be vigilant and follow the recommendations set for long-term care facilities, including wearing of face masks, maintaining social distance and using hand sanitizer.

As noted in our last letter, CDC had issued new guidance regarding indoor visitation; this was followed by new directives from DC Health. **Wherever the two sets of directives differ, we are obliged to follow those from DC Health.**

An indoor visitation plan has been revised to include the Healthcare Facility Investigation Team's recommendations, as well as new additions to their guidance. Once approval is received from them, we can begin indoor visitation. We thank you for your patience in waiting for this long hoped-for day to arrive.

Outdoor visitation is still preferred over indoor whenever possible, even though these visits are somewhat dependent on the weather. With the beautiful spring weather the number of outdoor visits will surely increase, so we would like to remind everyone of the following COVID-prevention policies:

- Outdoor visits must be arranged at least 24 hours in advance by contacting Maggie Drew, Monday-Friday before 4 p.m. Weekend visits should be foreseen and arranged by 4 p.m. on Fridays. This includes holiday weekends like Easter.
- If Maggie is unavailable to take your call, it will be forwarded to either Daisy Alzate or Sr. Alphonse Marie.
- Visits are limited to 30 minutes to allow for disinfection of the location between visitors, and to accommodate as many families as possible.
- Please limit visitors to 2 persons per visit.
- Children under 18 years of age may visit as long as they are accompanied by an adult. They must adhere to mask, distancing and hand washing requirements, and should stay with the adult visitor at all times.
- Supervised pets are allowed.
- Food items may not be consumed during any visit, but can be left with the receptionist, who will make sure they are sent to the Resident's unit.
- In the case of inclement weather please contact the Home. It might be possible to have a window visit instead of an outdoor visit, or we will help you reschedule.

Francine Whitley continues to arrange window visits on the ground floor, as well as Zoom and FaceTime calls.

As we begin spring, new blossoms remind us of newness of life and renewed hope. To any Washingtonian, the annual Cherry Blossom Festival is something that is anticipated each year. Since crowds are still discouraged to gather in large numbers, the organizers have planned some interesting virtual programs this year. One such feature is the Petal Porch Parade where the neighborhood is asked to decorate their porches and yards in order to stay connected during the peak of the Cherry Blossoms. The weekend of April 10-11 will include a procession along a designated map route which may include our own Home. The

Residents had fun preparing the decorations brightening up the front of our Home. You can check the National Cherry Blossom Festival website for further details.

As we begin the joyous celebration of the Easter season, let us be a people of hope as we proclaim: "The Lord is truly risen, alleluia!" A very Blessed Easter to you and your family.

Sr. Mary Michael and all the Little Sisters

"Let us sing the glories of the Risen Jesus!"
~ Saint Jeanne Jugan