

August 27, 2021

Dear Residents, Family, and Friends,

Over the past months I know that you have been receiving update calls from Daisy Alzate, DON concerning new information and clarifications about various topics. This is a general update of the situation here at Jeanne Jugan Residence since our last letter.

We are fortunate to have had no positive COVID-19 cases among the staff, Residents, or Sisters. The Residents on the nursing units and second floor are still able to co-mingle and attend Mass in our Chapel, but we must adhere to social distancing while in larger groups, even though Mayor Muriel Bowser has issued entry into Phase 3. It still stands that outdoor events are preferred at this time and we are using the nice weather to offer various activities.

As far as visits are concerned:

- we still encourage scheduling an appointment for visits to the Home;
- we will continue to require all staff, guests, and contractors to screen upon arrival, to wear a face mask while on the property or within the facility and be escorted to and from the Resident's room if you choose an indoor visit;
- we will require unvaccinated visitors to wear their mask throughout the visit;
- we appreciate your cooperation in assuring supervision of small children who accompany you for the visit.

Everyone is on high alert due to the increased cases of the "Delta Variant" around the country and we wish to update you on the additional steps we are taking to keep this at bay. At present, we do not have any "breakthrough infections" among our vaccinated Residents, Sisters, or staff.

We are advising anyone (Residents or staff) who travels or who attends prolonged or large gatherings to take necessary precautions, and to self-quarantine upon their return for 3-5 days. If they become symptomatic, we are asking that they get tested for the coronavirus by the Public Health lab. It only takes one positive case for us to go into lockdown and we are doing what we can to avoid this situation.

Since the reinstatement of Mayor Bowser's indoor mask mandate for D.C., our Home is following the greatest precautions for all workers who enter our facility. In addition to the daily screening and infection control protocols, a new surgical face mask is distributed to each worker by the facility at the start of their shift. Each staff member is required to change their mask after their lunch break as well. All Residents and Sisters are expected once again to wear a face mask while attending Mass in our Chapel.

Thank you for working together with us in following the suggested procedures while visiting your loved ones and for all you do to assist us. The health and safety of the Residents, staff, and Sisters is of great importance, and everyone's support is truly appreciated.

The last bit of news I'd like to share is that my transfer to our Home in Newark, Delaware has been delayed for a few months. In anticipating the celebration of the feast day of our Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan on August 30, we wish to thank you for sharing in the life of our Home and in keeping her love for the Elderly alive. In her own words we proclaim: *"Blessed be God! Thank you, my God! Glory be to God!"*

God bless you!

Mother Mary Michael