

September 9, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

As you know from our previous letter, a member of our staff tested positive for COVID-19 on August 30. Following the guidance of the epidemiology team at DC Health, our Home immediately went into lockdown and we began the “Outbreak Initiation Phase.”

On August 31, all Residents, Sisters, and Staff were tested at the Home and the specimens were sent to the Public Health lab. Everyone’s results were negative at that time.

Another round of testing was done on Tuesday, September 7. The bulk of those results have come in and so far everyone — Residents, staff and Little Sisters — has again tested negative.

We are still waiting for a very small number of test results, but DC Health is allowing us to pass into the “Controlled Outbreak Phase.”

This phase includes:

- With the exception of the Residents in the affected unit (Sacred Heart), the first and second floor Residents are able to resume **communal dining and limited activities**, without, however, being able to co-mingle.
- All Residents need to wear face masks and respect social distancing when outside their rooms.
- **Visitation of all Residents** by loved ones — except for those on Sacred Heart unit — may resume. Loved ones of Sacred Heart Residents are welcome to take advantage of more zoom meetings at this time.
- Outdoor visits are still preferred, but indoor visits are possible as long as face masks are worn, and social distancing maintained, during the entire visit. Visitors must be accompanied on and off the Resident units. A quick hug and/or kiss is allowed as long as both parties sanitize their hands before and after.
- We are asking all staff to change their face mask at least twice a shift. We are regularly seeking donations of surgical face masks to maintain an adequate supply.
- It is recommended that we still limit non-emergency outside appointments.
- Limited Resident outings are permitted for community activities as long as everyone wears a face mask and maintains social distancing during the entire outing.

We will update you as soon as we are able to move forward into the next phase, known as “No Outbreak.” Thank you once again for your support and understanding.

God bless you!

Mother Mary Michael and the Little Sisters

P.S. The guidance we are following for each of these “Outbreak” phases was issued by DC Health and is entitled “Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Reopening Guidance (Phase Two) for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Residences” You can find the link below.

[https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page\\_content/attachments/Phase\\_2\\_Reopening\\_Guidance\\_SNF\\_ALR\\_DCHealth\\_COVID-19\\_5.3.21.pdf](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/Phase_2_Reopening_Guidance_SNF_ALR_DCHealth_COVID-19_5.3.21.pdf)