

December 28, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

We hope you and your family are continuing to enjoy this beautiful Christmas season. It has been quite a while since we posted an update on COVID-related conditions in the home; we apologize for that. Before the year ends I wanted to send you one last update for 2021.

You have no doubt heard about the rise in the omicron variant of COVID-19 and the concerns that this is causing around the world. Despite these concerns we have been able to maintain communal dining and small group activities for the Residents.

We did have one staff member who tested positive for COVID-19 on 12/14/2021. Two Residents and another staff member were exposed and temporarily quarantined, but they have all tested negative. Life has returned to “normal,” thank God!

As you know, we have been able to maintain visits from family and friends, despite the rise in omicron. Contact with family members is so important to the Residents’ wellbeing, so we are grateful for this, as I am sure you are.

At the same time, we count on you to exercise increased vigilance when you come to visit, in order to help keep the Home COVID-free. Please help us by heeding the following advisories when you come to visit:

- Although it is not required to call ahead, this can be helpful, especially if your loved one needs help getting ready for a visit, or if you wish to use the visiting room on the ground floor.
- Please try to avoid Resident meal times if your loved one eats in the dining room (noon-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.).
- Masking, careful hand hygiene and social distancing remain crucial.
- Accurate screening upon arrival at the Home is also crucial.
- Anyone who has tested positive for COVID and who has not met criteria for discontinuation of isolation cannot visit, nor can anyone in a period of quarantine due to travel or exposure to someone with a positive test.
- Visitors who have symptoms or known close contact with a COVID-19 positive person within the last 14 days may not enter the Home, regardless of their vaccination status or personal history of COVID-19.

The omicron variant is spreading with unprecedented rapidity and those who have been fully vaccinated can spread it to others even if they are asymptomatic, so constant vigilance is crucial. We are prepared to perform immediate PCR testing for any Residents, staff or Sisters who manifest symptoms or become aware of exposure to COVID-19, and we continue to reinforce all recommended COVID-prevention protocols in the Home.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding, and for your Christmas wishes, donations and prayers. Together let's make 2022 safe, happy and COVID-free!

Happy New Year!

*Sister Mary Michael and the Little Sisters*