

December 12, 2022

Dear Families, Friends and Residents,

Concerns are growing nationwide over rapidly increasing cases of what health officials have deemed a **triple-demic: the flu, RSV and COVID-19**. As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is once again urging the public to wear face masks indoors.

According to the agency's Dec. 8, 2022 report, 13.7% of Americans live in communities now rated "high" COVID-19 Community Levels, up from 4.9% of the population last week. An additional 38.1% of Americans are in "medium" areas and 48.2% are in "low" areas.

Out of an abundance of caution we have decided to re-implement a mask mandate for all Residents, staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors effective December 15, 2022, regardless of vaccination status.

Please help in keeping everyone in the facility and most importantly, our beloved Residents safe as Christmas approaches!

DC Health has a new definition of "outbreak" that will mandate us to meet the full requirements of initiation outbreak phase.

An outbreak is defined as:

- ≥ 1 case in a resident ≥ 14 days after admission/readmission
- ≥ 1 case in staff

Each day we see more Christmas decorations appearing around the Home; we still have so much to celebrate. We intend to do everything we can to keep the triple-demic out of our house during the holiday season so that everyone can fully enjoy the Christmas festivities.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding,

Mother Margaret Regina and the Little Sisters