

July 24, 2023

Dear Family and Friends,

We here at Jeanne Jugan Residence have been blessed in many ways over the past months. Masking and other infection control practices have been a safeguard in keeping our Residents Covid-free, especially during the winter and flu season. We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation in this regard.

As many of you know, the Public Health Emergency came to an end on May 11, 2023. During the past few months, the CDC, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the DC Department of Health have slowly updated Covid-19 guidance including a recent update addressing the requirement for wearing masks. Based on this most recent guidance, we are pleased to inform you that, **as of today, July 24, Jeanne Jugan Residence is lifting the requirement for wearing masks**, unless it is the individual's personal preference to do so. Our Staff will continue to wear face masks while providing direct care to the Residents.

In lifting the mask-mandate, we also are allowing visitors and volunteers to use other areas of the Home: the solarium, café, breezeway, chapel. We do remind everyone to keep vigilance and to continue with other source control procedures, including hand hygiene.

The Covid-19 guidance suggests that we continue to monitor the District's Covid-19 Hospital and Emergency Room positivity admission level. If, in the future, the level is "moderate", we will return to masking in the facility until the level goes back down to "low" for 2 consecutive weeks. We will post updated changes to our masking policy at the front desk and on the units.

We still ask that you complete the screening process at the front desk when you come in, as this assists us with contact-tracing purposes if someone becomes sick. We strongly encourage you to stay home if you are not feeling well. We continue to ask that you refrain from visiting the facility if you have had a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19 or have had a positive test result for Covid-19.

We hope this news brings a smile to your face. As usual, we appreciate all you do to help keep our Residents safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Daisy Alzate, DON or Sister Alphonse Marie, Administrator.

God bless you and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Mother Margaret Regina