

July 9, 2021

Dear Residents, Family and Friends,

We are sure you are anxious to get a little news from “happenings here” at 185! Time seems to fly quickly and it’s hard to believe that we are in the middle of July already. The Residents are still enjoying the memories of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. At this time, there was a loosening of COVID-related restrictions, allowing families to hug their loved ones, hold extended conversations without a window of separation, and even take their elderly loved one home or shopping. Those “joys” we took for granted at times. We can only thank God for this giant step we experienced here!

We all know just the same that as Delaware reopens, COVID-19 is still present in the State and throughout the world. As a health care facility, we still must proceed with an abundance of caution. Although we are moving in in the right direction our Home is still required to **follow the long-term care facilities re-opening guidance under the direction of the Delaware Division of Health Care Quality.**

- All Staff and Residents are wearing face covering at all times except for communal dining and outside while maintaining social distancing. No gowns are being worn unless Residents need to quarantine/isolate. The Home will continue to screen all persons who enter the Home for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, of which testing may be offered. We highly encourage vaccination or testing 2-3 days prior to coming to the facility.
- The Home will continue with the scheduled visitation through our Activities Director. **Infection control standards** continue regarding hand hygiene before and after the visit, mask wearing and social distancing from staff and others. According to the guidance, the preferred method of visitation is in the outdoor setting even when the Resident and visitor are fully vaccinated, weather permitting. Outside visits are lower risk than indoor visits. Indoor, in-person visits will be in specific designated areas considering there are no new COVID-19 infections in facility staff or Resident. Indoor visitations are also subject to limitations as to the amount of people inside the Home at any given time.
- Our Residents are now permitted off-site visits with their families which can be scheduled through our Activities Director at least 36 hours in advance. Infection control standards continue regarding mask wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene apply. The visits should be limited to small groups. Screening will be asked of family before leaving the Home, and of Residents upon arrival back to the Home. Daily symptom screening will be conducted for a 14-day period after the family visit.

****For those who are unvaccinated, a 14-day quarantine period is required after each off-site family visit. ****

- Fully vaccinated Residents may go shopping with the Activities Department or with their families. **Infection control standards** continue regarding mask wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene apply. We suggest shopping during times when the store is the least crowded. If the Resident would like to go with the Activities Department, they will sign up for the shopping event. Daily symptom screening will be conducted for a 14-day period after the shopping event.

- For those who are unvaccinated, a 14-day quarantine period is required after each off-site family visit.

Eating at a restaurant, funerals, weddings, and large gatherings are still considered “**High-risk activities.**” **Those who choose to participate in these activities will be assessed separately by the Home and may need to quarantine regardless of vaccination status.**

Once again, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through these challenging times. We remain optimistic, but vigilant in our policies and procedures in protecting our Residents, Staff and Visitors.

In closing: An Irish Blessing. “May the blessing of Christ’s light be on you, light without and light within. May the blessed Sunshine of His Love shine on you and warm your hearts!”

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sister Margaret Regina and Little Sisters