

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Dear Family members,

No doubt you continue to be concerned about your loved one here at St. Augustine Home and how they may be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. I hope that you continue to stay in frequent contact with your loved one by phone.

I would like to give you an update on the situation inside St. Augustine Home. All Residents in Lourdes unit have now been tested for Covid-19. Of the 17 Residents in this nursing unit, 8 tested negative and 9 tested positive. One of those who tested negative is now home with his family. Among those who tested positive, 1 has died.

Of the Residents who tested positive and were reported on in my April 11 letter, 2 have fully recovered and are out of isolation. Three more are asymptomatic and we expect them to be released from quarantine early next week. The Residents testing positive have been isolated from those who are negative and they are being cared for by a team of dedicated staff members. Residents rooms were sanitized by a professional company before the moves took place.

Five Little Sisters, including myself, tested positive for Covid-19 and have been in quarantine; I am feeling fine and hope to be out of quarantine this week. Two Little Sisters from other Homes have come to help care for the Residents. One of them, Sr. Marie Cecilia, was assigned to St. Augustine Home from 2006 to 2012 and has come from Mobile, Alabama. Sr. Faustina is from our Home in Baltimore; both of these Homes are free of the virus so far so we are confident that these Sisters did not bring Covid with them.

We continue to be in daily contact with Department of Public Health and have been following their guidelines, as well as those of the CDC. Residents and staff members who exhibit any symptoms related to Covid-19 are referred to our medical director for immediate assessment.

We continue to monitor the Residents' temperature and vital signs every four hours and our medical director continues to participate in daily conference calls so that the nursing staff are kept up to date on what can be done to protect our Residents.

In closing I want you to know of our ongoing commitment to providing the Residents with the best care possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

In Christ,

Sr Francis Gabriel and all the Little Sisters at St. Augustine Home