

April 13, 2020

Dear families and friends,

I hope that you and your family are staying well. The Sisters and I are praying for you all.

I know from the phone calls and emails we have been receiving that many of you are feeling anxious and worried about your loved ones. I imagine that it has been particularly difficult because you can't see the Residents face to face. As I have suggested previously, I encourage you to stay in frequent contact with your loved one by phone. If you are having difficulty reaching them, please let me or one of the Sisters know. We will make sure to facilitate the connection.

Last week was significant for us with respect to Covid-19, and so I would like to give you an update. A total of 13 symptomatic Residents have been tested for the coronavirus in the last week. Ten of them tested positive, two were negative and one result is still pending. All of the Residents who have exhibited Covid-19 symptoms reside in the same nursing care unit of the Home and all are being isolated in their rooms, except for one who has been hospitalized at the family's request.

Two of the Residents who tested positive for Covid-19 are recovering at home and doing well. Two of them who had a serious underlying terminal condition passed away here at the Home. Two other Residents who were symptomatic died at home before they could be tested.

I know that this information can be very anxiety provoking, but I want you to know that we are in daily contact with Department of Public Health and have been following their guidelines, as well as the guidelines of the CDC. Residents and staff members who exhibit any type of symptom related to Covid-19 are referred to our medical director for immediate assessment.

Those Residents testing positive for COVID-19 or are symptomatic have their temperature and other vital signs monitored every four hours. This is to prevent any delay between the detection of symptoms and the onset of treatment. Our medical director is joining us for daily conference calls so that the nursing staff are current and up to date on what can be done to protect our Residents.

Most importantly, I want you to know how committed we, The Little Sisters, are in providing the Residents with the best care possible despite these trying circumstances, as well as how much all of us at St. Augustine Home appreciate your prayers and support. Most of the Residents are in good spirits. We are giving them lots of special individualized attention and are working hard to keep them comfortable and at peace.

While we have been in contact with many of you, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We wish you a blessed and happy — if not very unusual — Easter. In this Paschal season let us all trust in Jesus, confident that His mercy and compassion are without limits. Because of the resurrection, life always triumphs over death.

In Christ,

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