

July 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that currently there are no Covid cases in the Home among the Residents and the staff! This is our goal and we are working hard to maintain it.

As you may know, there is currently an increase in newly diagnosed cases all over the country, including Indiana, Indianapolis and Marion County. This is causing us to be extra vigilant and guarded while respecting the current directives by the Indiana Department of Health, as well as Marion County Health Department. Since Marion County, in which we live, has the highest number of cases in Indiana and continues to climb, we are required to follow the most stringent directives between the two health departments.

As we were looking forward to opening St. Augustine's to visitors on July 17<sup>th</sup>, we learned that the Governor of Indiana delayed moving into phase 5 for two more weeks, until July 29, due to the high incidence of new cases. Marion County has thus prohibited indoor visitations until that time. We may continue outdoor visitations on a limited basis and by appointment only.

We received this news this past Friday, just one day before we were to begin indoor visitation, so this caused a bit of confusion. I encourage you to follow [Indiana.gov](http://Indiana.gov), the ISDH website or the Marion County Health Department if you wish to stay abreast of the changes.

Even as we receive so many directives from outside agencies, we are extra vigilant and discourage the Residents from going out. We are doing everything we can to maintain a safe environment for them. Leaving the Home or going out for reasons other than health needs jeopardizes the Residents' health and safety.

While we face the future without knowing the implications of the rising number of coronavirus cases in the community, we continue to strive to protect our Residents and emphasize their quality of life. We strive every day to make them happy, even in the face of so many restrictions. It seems like contact with their families, their outside doctor's appointments and getting their hair done are the most important things to them!

Thank you for all your support and understanding at this time. Please do not hesitate to contact us through email at [updatesindy@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:updatesindy@littlesistersofthepoor.org) or by calling 317-415-5767. Please leave a message and someone will return your call Monday thru Friday to answer your questions. We want to keep you informed and updated as we weave through the frequent updates and changes we are receiving.

God bless you!  
Mother Francis and all the Little Sisters