

Saturday, April 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

This letter is to inform you that an employee of the Home was diagnosed with Covid yesterday. It is an isolated case. The employee was tested and diagnosed outside of the Home and has not been in the home or worked since last Sunday. As usual, the employee is not working again till they test negative. There have not been any other cases and our Residents are being monitored for signs and symptoms of Covid. Of course, since most of the Residents have now been vaccinated, they have added protection.

As we all know through the news, the numbers of Covid cases throughout the nation is rising in certain states. We need to continue to be vigilant to prevent any new cases.

As the warmer days are ahead of us, we are all looking forward to getting outside for some warm weather. As a reminder, outside visitation is the first choice recommended by the Health Department.

I wanted to inform you as well of another change to Visitations to the Home. The Indiana Department of Health has indicated that two (2) visitors are permitted for 1 -2 hours at a time. We originally stated three (3) visitors, but now we are taking a step back and permitting only 2 visitors for a maximum of two (2) hours at a time. While we are so happy to have visits once again, we realize the wisdom of this requirement. It is getting difficult to maintain social distancing when multiple families are visiting at the same time of day. We are pleased everyone is taking advantage of visiting, but we still need to assure social distancing. Several times, multiple families have arrived for the same Resident. When this occurs, we will ask the visitors to remain in the lobby until the other visitors leave. This requirement of 2 visitors at a time is in effect for both indoor and outdoor visitation.

We have also been asked to monitor the number of visitors in the Home at any given time to protect the health and security of our Residents and staff. So far, this has not been an issue we feel a need to address but will do so in the future if there is a need.

Please feel free to contact us if there is a special need with which we can help you. Special circumstances are always considered – just let us know how we can help. If it is within the guidelines and a possibility, we would be happy to accommodate your request.

Also, visitors are required to go directly to the Resident's room during their visit and to remain in the room for the visit. Visitors are not permitted to go anywhere else in the Home. Lastly, we have been directed to outline the route by which visitors travel through the Home. For the sake of simplicity, we have outlined the routes as follows:

- Lourdes Unit (2 East), Fatima Unit (3 East), St. Joseph's (2 West) and Holy Family Unit (3 West) visitors will use the east center elevator and go directly to the Resident's room who they are visiting.
- Jeanne Jugan Apartment visitors will use the 1st floor west hallway to access the elevator to the apartments.

This past week during Holy Week, we were pleased to celebrate the liturgies that we were unable to have last year when it coincided with the onset of Covid in our Home. We are so grateful for the opportunity we have to celebrate the Mass daily in our Home. It is a great source of strength for all of us who walk the halls of St. Augustine's.

We are happy to take this opportunity to wish you a joy-filled and Blessed Easter!

Gratefully,

Mother Francis and the Little Sisters of the Poor