



Ascension Living

May 26, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members,

As I notified you in previous automated calls, Our Lady of Peace began testing associates up to twice weekly beginning on May 20, 2020. As a result of this aggressive testing program, we have identified three asymptomatic associates who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days. This result reflects the effectiveness of our COVID-19 surveillance program and should give you confidence in our commitment to protecting the health and safety of our residents and associates. These individuals have been placed on a COVID related medical leave. Through proactive testing, we were able to identify these asymptomatic individuals who were positive for the virus, which is helping us in our ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I want to share specific data regarding COVID-19 as it relates to residents and associates exposure. To date, 10 of our residents have tested positive and we have admitted three COVID-19 positive residents from the hospital. As a result, there have been a total of 13 positive COVID-19 residents in our community. The last resident to test positive was on April 26, 2020. To put this in perspective, the infection rate at OLP was less than 5% of our resident population. This success is tempered by our sadness of the passing of three residents related to COVID-19, our thoughts and prayers are with their families and loved ones. The remaining 10 residents positive for COVID-19 have since recovered and have either been discharged home, back to their original room, or are preparing to return to their original room in the next few days.

In regards to associates who tested positive for COVID-19, the data reflects an equally positive result. As of today, of our over 400 associates and essential health care partners, 11 have tested positive for COVID-19, or less than 2% of our workforce. With that stated, we anticipate this number to increase slightly as we aggressively test for asymptomatic associates.

Any resident with positive tests or who are symptomatic are being isolated in a designated unit and treated in accordance with guidance from the CDC. Those residents are cared for by designated, specially trained healthcare personnel who do not interact with other residents or units within the community. Residents who do not have symptoms related to COVID-19 or tested negatively are treated in a separate part of the building and are cared for by a different

designated team to mitigate any possible exposure to COVID-19.

Any staff member who tests positive is required to adhere to established infection control protocols with guidance from the CDC and will remain off work until cleared by their personal medical provider. It is also important to know that our staff follow our protocols and are fully dressed in appropriate personal protective equipment during time in our community.

As we continue to navigate the effects of this pandemic, we will continue to implement new protocols as advised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), public health officials and our infection control specialists in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our response plan addresses the safety of our residents and associates, in addition to ensuring that we continue to deliver the compassionate care you have come to expect of our team. Our priority is to reduce transmission risk among associates and residents, protecting people who are at higher risk for adverse health complications.

Our team has proactively implemented precautions that reduce risk of exposure to others. CMS and the New York State Department of Health have directed OLP to implement visitation restrictions designed to protect our residents, associates and families. In addition, OLP has implemented comprehensive screening of all who enter our community; applied social distancing measures; are requiring all associates and clinical partners to wear a facemask when working within our communities; are regularly conducting stringent deep cleaning; boosted resident baseline monitoring; and are providing regular updates to our residents, family members and staff. We made all these changes to reduce the potential for exposure to COVID-19 while a resident receives care unrelated to the disease.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 716-298-2929 or jon.hart@ascension.org. Please also visit ladyofpeace.org webpage for more information. Finally, please continue to keep the residents and associates of Our Lady of Peace in your prayers!

Sincerely,



Jonathan Hart
Executive Director
Our Lady of Peace