



# Ascension Living

April 20, 2020

Dear Resident and Family Members,

As we continue to negotiate these choppy seas, we have experienced additional associate and resident positive cases of COVID. While this is consistent with other communities in Western New York, I am proud of the heroic steps our associates have taken to limit the spread of this virus.

Our priority remains reducing the transmission risk among residents and associates, protecting people who are at higher risk for adverse health complications. Although I have shared this information with you previously I want to restate that a key component to ensuring the safety of our community is to reduce opportunities for exposure to this virus. In order to reduce the risk to our community, we have implemented the following changes until further notice:

## **Daily monitoring**

OLP's Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) assembles daily to review supply levels, resident and associate needs and the overall COVID response plan for effectiveness. Adjustments and updates to the plan are made as necessary. We also conduct regular screenings of all of our residents.

## **Infection Protection**

We have instituted comprehensive screening of all associates, essential healthcare partners and essential visitors; adopted universal face masking of all associates and clinical partners; and are regularly conducting stringent deep cleaning.

## **Equipment Availability**

We are taking proactive steps with our distributors and suppliers to ensure that we continue to have the supplies we need, including personal protective equipment (PPE). We are arranging expedited shipments directly from manufacturers, assessing alternative products and taking advantage of our abilities as a national system to obtain supplies from other care sites when appropriate.

## **Group Activities**

We have implemented social distancing procedures which include the suspension of all communal activities, including dining, and now provide in-room dining experiences. In addition, the beauty shop is also closed until further notice.

## **Spiritual Care**

Mass and other religious services have been canceled; however, our spiritual care director has been organizing video calls with our residents to connect with families and their spiritual support. Under very limited circumstances, OLP has arranged for the priest from Mount St. Mary's Hospital to administer the sacraments.

**Our Lady of Peace**  
5285 Lewiston Road  
Lewiston, New York 14092

**Visitors**

For you and your loved ones safety, NYSDOH has restricted visitation, only allowing extreme compassionate visitations, such as end-of-life situations. Approved extreme, compassionate visitors are required to enter through the Main Entrance and screened for respiratory signs and symptoms. They will not be allowed to visit if they have any respiratory symptoms, such as a fever (>99.6), cough, runny nose, fever, or difficulty breathing, or have themselves or been around anyone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or traveled to countries with sustained community transmission as noted on the CDC website within the last 14 days. Please call if you have any questions about extreme compassionate visitation.

**New Admission Unit**

We have created a designated admission unit to safely admit new skilled nursing residents, who are cared for by designated healthcare personnel who do not interact with other residents or families.

**In conclusion**

I want to thank you for your continued support, both verbally and through the acts of kindness you have provided to our associates. Our Niagara community has rallied around our residents and associates like I have never seen before!

Thank you for understanding and cooperating with these changes and feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at 716-298-2900 or [jon.hart@ascension.org](mailto:jon.hart@ascension.org). Your continued prayers are also greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hart  
Executive Director  
Our Lady of Peace