



Little Sisters of the Poor

From a humble heart, a great wave of charity
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Celebrating 150 years in America

St. Martin's Home
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July 17, 2020

To: All family members of a current Resident at St. Martin's and to our friends

We have good news from last week, that all the staff testing was done, and all reports were negative. This week, we have begun the 2nd round of weekly testing and so far, we have more than half of the test results back and they were all negative. We are still waiting for the results of the second half of the staff tests. We may not get this back until over the weekend or until Monday of next week. The one staff member who previously tested positive in June remains in quarantine until we get the 2 negative tests back. One other staff did not feel well this week and has self-quarantined and has been tested and we are waiting the results.

We will continue to communicate important information as things may change at any time. As per the Governor's executive order and directives, all staff are tested weekly and we closely monitor the results as they come in. We continue to practice an abundance of caution to keep Residents safe and will follow direction from Governor Hogan and local and state health agencies on when and how to ease safety restrictions when possible. There are continually new guidelines and requirements that we are following closely, and one of the newest ones from CDC and CMS, is that they will be providing a COVID-19 testing machine for each nursing home. This will need to be planned for and used with an abundance of caution, but they are hoping for a quicker turnaround time for test results. However, this will mean more staff will be needed and be dedicated to assisting with the testing and the results.

However, the main focus of the Little Sisters and Staff here at St Martin's remains caring for your loved one at this time in the best way possible. I know this is a difficult time for you to be away from your loved one and challenging for yourselves as well to remain safe. Life has certainly changed since March with no fair warning, but one that calls out of love of God and of neighbor, in the service of one another. The Little Sisters and our Staff are doing our very best to keep spirits high, but we all miss the face to face contact with you and seeing the pleasure you bring to your loved one. Please keep up your window visits which has brought happiness to many of our Residents. You can call either our Social Services Designee or our Activities Director to arrange a window visit or to interact with your Resident through email, phone, FaceTime, Skype or Zoom. We can't wait for the time when we can see you face to face as before!

Although Maryland continues to have the best numbers we have seen since March, we must continue wearing masks and social distancing or the trend could reverse. For the good of all, we are asking everyone to please remain vigilant. Stay home if you are sick and wear a mask when you are in public to help keep the virus from spreading. We hope that by working together, we will soon see the day when we can welcome you to our Home for an in-person visit with your loved one.

All Little Sisters of the Poor continue to pray for you and your families and for an end to the pandemic.

Most sincerely,

Mother Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.
Superior