



Little Sisters of the Poor
From a humble heart, a great wave of charity
www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org
Celebrating 150 years in America

St. Martin's Home
601 Maiden Choice Lane
Baltimore, Maryland 21228
Phone: 410/744-9367

December 18, 2020

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

In this very difficult year of COVID-19, we are happy to at last share some positive news. All of our COVID testing from this past Monday have been negative. On December 15, Governor Larry Hogan announced the reactivation of the Maryland National Guard to support state and local health officials in the efficient distribution of COVID-19 vaccines statewide.

"With vaccine distribution now beginning in our state, we have finally reached a turning point. We are able to see the sun rising on the horizon – even if that horizon may still seem a little distant right now," said Governor Hogan. "I want to assure the people of Maryland that we will get through this together, and that every single day, as we vaccinate more and more people and we continue to fight this virus with everything we've got, will bring us that much closer to victory over this deadly virus."

Also, according to the Governor's website, Maryland has an initial allocation of 155,000 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines that will be dedicated to healthcare workers in hospitals and nursing home for residents and staff. But while the state projected to be allocated up to 300,000 doses by the end of the month, actual availability is dependent on vaccine production.

We are in the process of setting up the vaccine clinic here for the very beginning of January and will be sending out the authorization forms to you. It is very important that you please read the information about the vaccine and return the form as soon as possible to us so we can appropriately plan on dosages we need. This is certainly good news for our beloved Resident's, and we are happy to share this news with you. We will continue to take all the necessary precautions after the vaccine is administered, including the use of all the PPE necessary, along with good infection control practices and regular testing to ensure the safety of all.

The CDC is reminding everyone that the safest way to celebrate winter holidays is at home with the people who live with you. Travel and gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading COVID or the flu even with being asymptomatic. Let us do all we can to stay well, enjoy the holidays and consider taking the vaccine when available.

With only a week left before Christmas day, please continue to "visit" with your loved one, through Facetime, Zoom, or other social media means. Although done remotely, just seeing your face and hearing your voice is the best Christmas present you can give this year. We know that nothing replaces your smile and the warmth of your embrace, except the hope that one day soon this will be possible, once this vaccine can help us fight this pandemic.

As we enter the last week of Advent, the Little Sisters pray for you and your family and we will do everything in our power to make this a very special Christmas for your loved one.

Most sincerely,

Sister Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.
Superior



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