

May 29, 2020

Dear Family members,

It's hard to believe that summer is around the corner. Thank God the pandemic seems to be showing signs of significant improvement and according to Mayor De Blasio the opening of New York City seems very close. Although New York City is the state's only region left on PAUSE, the Mayor is pointing to an early June reopening.

As you may know, there are four phases in what Governor Cuomo is calling "New York Forward." Neither the Governor nor the Mayor have included the opening of nursing homes in this plan. Our latest directive from the State Health Department was that all nursing home Residents should be tested within the next two weeks. Any Resident who tests positive must be placed in a dedicated area with dedicated staff to the extent possible. This means that in order to create a dedicated area we may need to relocate some of the Residents from one area to another in order to comply with these requirements. Resident testing will begin this Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. IN the meantime there have been no cases of Covid-19 among the Residents since our last letter.

All staff continue to be tested twice a week and we're happy to say that we have had only one new case of Covid-19 among staff.

CMS offered general guidelines in reopening nursing homes; these will be interpreted by each State. We have been advised to continue following CMS and CDC guidance, as well as State and local directives, for preventing the transmission of Covid-19.

Because nursing home Residents are especially vulnerable, CMS does not recommend opening facilities to visitors (except for end of life situations) until phase three, when the following conditions have been met:

- There have been no new, nursing home onset Covid-19 cases in the nursing home for 28 days (through phases one and two).
- The nursing home is not experiencing staff shortages.
- The nursing home has adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and essential cleaning and disinfection supplies to care for Residents.
- The nursing home has adequate access to testing for Covid-19.
- Referral hospital(s) have bed capacity on wards and intensive care units.

Based on these guidelines, it's hard to tell when we will actually be able to open our doors to the public. We will continue to keep you up to date on the latest activities here at Jeanne Jugan Residence and thank all of you for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,  
Sr. Gertrude Mary Isp