

Dear Family Member,

As you may have heard in the news, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been identified in New Jersey by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)

We do not have any cases of COVID-19 at our community but there are few confirmed cases in the county, this development triggers heightened infection control practices and protocols as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

1. We are only allowing our staff to enter the building after individual screening. Access to family members, visitors, volunteers, and outside vendors is restricted. **This restriction is in effect until further notice.**
2. No communal dining
3. No activities internal or external including Daily Mass
4. Tray service in-room

Please know that maintaining the health, wellness and safety of your loved one is our number one priority.

We understand that communication with your loved ones is incredibly important and encourage you to communicate with them in other ways such as the telephone, face time, skype or e-mail. If you wish to video chat with your family members, please contact the nursing unit to arrange a time.

Please know that the news about the spread of this new disease is concerning for us all. In addition to restricting visitation to prevent the illness on our campus, we are also focused on infection control best practices with our staff and residents. Staff have been trained on the symptoms of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), CDC recommended infection prevention techniques, and have clear protocols for staff to stay home and not come to work if they are ill or symptomatic.

We continue to monitor information and guidance from the NJDOH, CMS, CDC and are working with state and local public health and emergency preparedness officials to prevent the illness and strengthen our preparation for a possible outbreak.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause, but believe it is in the best interest of residents. We will continue to keep you informed. Please do not hesitate to contact the home with any questions or concerns you may have. You mail email general questions to: Totowa@littlesistersofthepoor.org. Please do not email any private or health questions as this is not a secure email.

Sincerely,

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Infection Control Team