

May 2, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

It has been a little over a week since I last wrote to you to inform you of the situation inside St. Joseph's Home in Totowa. Today I write to give you an update on the current situation.

As you probably know, among all 50 states, New Jersey has the second most cases of Covid-19, surpassed only by New York. I don't think you will be surprised, therefore to learn that we have seen an increase of cases in the Home this week.

Unfortunately, 5 new Residents have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past week, bringing the total number of Residents with the coronavirus to 15. Test results are pending for 3 more. One Resident passed away this week and 2 are currently hospitalized.

Among our staff members, 3 were confirmed positive for the virus this week; test results for one person are pending. Since the beginning of the pandemic a total of 13 of our employees have contracted the virus, and as I previously reported, one has died.

I am so sorry to bring you more worrisome news and understand your concern for your loved one in the Home. We want to reassure you that we continue to do all we can — following all CDC and health department guidelines — to keep our Residents safe and healthy.

Trusting in God and looking forward to the day when I will be the bearer of good news,

Sr. Mary Thomas, l.s.p.