

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

140 Shepherd Lane

Totowa, NJ 07512

December 23, 2021

Dear Residents, Family and Friends,

Here we are, only two days away from the beautiful feast of Christmas, and there are certainly many and varied emotions in our hearts and minds. Looking back over 2021, who would ever have thought so much would change in our lives and way of living! There is One Constant in our lives, and that is our dear Lord, Jesus Christ...whose birth we remember and celebrate two days from today!

COVID continues to thrive with highly infectious variants and positivity rates on the rise all around us. I have to share that during this week's testing, one staff member on the second floor nursing unit tested positive and this individual is quarantining at home.

I am sure that this news is as disconcerting to you as it is to us, but as you know, employees can be exposed to the virus unknowingly. Also, please bear in mind that the main reason for weekly testing is to catch positives early. This way, it will prevent transmission of the virus and will keep everybody in the Home safe.

If you do decide to visit your loved ones this Christmas Season, we do want to remind you that we must remain vigilant with all of our safety protocols in order to stay healthy and safe. To facilitate a safe visit all visitors must comply with the Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention (listed below) at all times while in the Home.

1. Screening of all who enter our Home for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status).
2. Hand Hygiene at minimum at the start and conclusion of the visit.
3. Face covering or mask worn throughout duration of visit (covering mouth and nose) (No cloth masks.)
4. Social distancing at least six feet between persons.
5. Visitors are asked to limit movement in the facility. They should go directly to the designated visitation area.
6. Visitors are not permitted in the chapel, dining rooms or day rooms and pets are not permitted.
7. For all visitors it is strongly encouraged that you obtain, a negative COVID (PCR).
test 72 hours prior to visit is highly recommended or a negative point of care antigen test (rapid test) result taken within 24 hours prior to visit.

Due to the high positivity rate, we strongly recommend against families taking Residents out of facilities for holiday celebration events or gatherings. Unvaccinated Residents who leave the facility, will need to quarantine for 14 days upon their return to the home.

Thank you for your continued prayers for us; we pray for you as well. It is a privilege to serve and care for your dear loved ones here at the Home, and we appreciate your support of our efforts to keep them safe!

Christmas Blessings to you all!

Mother Mary Thomas, lsp