

St. Joseph's Home
Little Sisters of the Poor
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May 2, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

Some good news on this beautiful Saturday afternoon: Our Residents continue to be well with no symptoms of the virus. We were able to test three Residents and the results came back today: **negative**. Thank God.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief, but we aren't putting our guard down. Several of our staff members have been tested because they were concerned, although none have symptoms, and so far, all are negative.

As I told you recently, we have one staff member who tested positive. This person has not been in the building since then.

A few of you have asked if we will test everyone. Hospitals and labs are reluctant to test all of our Residents, since they have no symptoms. We have been told on several occasions that the test kits are being reserved for those who are sick.

We continue to monitor everyone: Residents and Staff twice a day for any signs or symptoms of illness. This includes monitoring temperatures and oxygen levels for all Residents, and temperatures for all staff members. Staff have also been given a tracking tool that they are to use to monitor their health and assess whether they have been in possible contact with an infected person when they are not on the job. And we continue to be in contact with the IL Department of Public Health and follow all of their directives and guidelines.

Since the one positive case among the staff, our Residents have been even more strictly quarantined in their rooms. Skype visits continue and distance visits – through a window help a little. But I know how hard this is for all of you. I can say in honesty that the spirit here continues to be good. The Sisters and Staff are all doing their utmost to make the Residents happy. But you are very much missed. We are working on ways to make Mother's Day extra special. If you have any ideas, please share them with us.

I will keep you posted. Thank you for your support and prayers. We truly appreciate you.

God bless you.

Mother Margaret Charles, lsp

Administrator

