

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly  
Little Sisters of the Poor  
80 W. Northwest Hwy  
Palatine, IL 60067  
[www.littlesistersofthepoorpalatine.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpalatine.org)

July 20, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of our Residents,

I am happy to report that again our test results have all been negative. We thank God for His protection and we also thank our wonderful Medical, Infection Control and Environmental staff. Indeed, everyone here at the Home has been working diligently to keep the virus away from our doors.

As you know, no one is out of the woods yet. We are proceeding cautiously. Outdoor visits continue and we thank volunteer Carol Broderick for the wonderful job she does with scheduling and screening. Please remember that no one should come if they are not feeling well or have any symptoms of the virus.

The Residents are delighted to be back in their dining rooms. The rooms were filled with happy chatter at their first meal there, as they caught up with friends from other floors whom they hadn't dined with since March.

There are a few changes in our meal service: social distancing is practiced, only two Residents per table, hand sanitizer is used before each Resident is served, nothing is self-serve – for example the salad bar, toaster or drinks. Individual salt and pepper shakers are used. There are many little ways that we are trying to avoid cross-contamination.

We are gradually opening up chapel services. Pews and floors are marked for distancing, no hymn books or worship aids are used. A very limited number of Residents can be in the chapel at the same time. Everyone is taking turns attending Mass. Our priests and sacristans are very attentive to follow all guidelines from the archdiocese.

We will be starting small group activities next week. Gaby and Brother Tom have tried their best to keep everyone entertained, but it will be nice for our elders to be able to gather a bit more (safely, of course). They can't wait for their favorite "karaoke/sing along with Rick" to resume, but that isn't possible yet. And their beloved beauticians are still on hold. It will be a glorious day when we can finally start taking them out for trips, but that doesn't appear to be any time too soon, either. In the meantime, we can use our imaginations to plan a wonderful family get together when this is all over.

Thank you for being so understanding and cooperative. You are truly part of the team that is keeping St. Joseph's Home safe. Stay well. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Mother Margaret Charles, Administrator