



Little Sisters of the Poor

150 years serving the elderly of Philadelphia
1869-2019

August 13, 2021

Dear Residents, Family Members, and Responsible Parties,

We have been very fortunate that since May, 2021, we have been able to relax some of the restrictions, particularly regarding family visitation. It has been wonderful for the Residents and the family members to be able to see each other again.

One of our Sisters recently traveled out of state for a family visit. When she came back she was tested for COVID-19 as per our protocol and tested positive. Fortunately, she had gone straight up to the convent and was not in any Resident care area. Thus, the Residents do not have to be quarantined. The Sister was immediately quarantined per CDC guidelines.

As I'm sure you have been hearing in the news, the COVID-19 positivity rate has been rapidly rising, mostly due to the Delta variant, which is much more contagious. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons can become infected, although those who are being hospitalized and dying are mostly those who are unvaccinated. Even if you have mild or no symptoms, you can still pass the virus on to others.

In Philadelphia, the positivity rate has now risen from 1% on July 2 to 5.6% on August 13, which is of much concern. Our unvaccinated staff are now being tested weekly instead of monthly.

In order to continue keeping our staff and Residents safe, **we are stressing the following visitation guidelines:**

- Please call and make an appointment for your visit – Cathy Moffit, 215-729-5153 or phsocialservices@littlesistersofthepoor.org. Please do not show up without an appointment.
- You **must** wear a surgical mask throughout the visit, even in the Resident's room. A fresh surgical mask can be obtained from the receptionist when you are screened. **Cloth masks are not acceptable;** you may wear the surgical mask over your cloth mask.
- Do not come if you have any symptoms, such as cough, sore throat, diarrhea, shortness of breath – even cold symptoms can be signs of COVID infection.
- Do not come if you have been exposed in the last 14 days to anyone who tested positive.
- Because of the rising number of cases, visits will take place only outside the building or in the Cappuccino Corner, in order to protect the other Residents and staff on the units. Visits in Residents' rooms are suspended for the time being.

HOLY FAMILY HOME

5300 Chester Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19143


Tel: (215) 729-5153 • Fax: (215) 240-8381

www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org

- **Please use the hand sanitizer when you come in and out of the building.**
- If you have traveled out of state, please wait a few days before coming to visit - monitor for any symptoms and we also recommend that you be tested.

FaceTime calls and Zoom meetings are still available and can be set up through our Activities Department. Please call or e-mail Kelly at phactivities@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Please share this letter and the attachment with other family members so that they are aware of our Visitation Guidelines.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in following these guidelines. Fully vaccinated persons  still get the virus, so we want to continue to **be vigilant in observing infection control protocols. Once we have a positive case the Residents will have to go into quarantine and restrictions will be put back into place.** May God bless us and keep us all healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



Mother Celine Therese, lsp

HOLY FAMILY HOME VISITATION GUIDELINES

- Visits must be scheduled ahead of time. Please call Cathy Moffit at 215-729-5153 or phsocialservices@littlesistersofthepoor.org at least 48 hours in advance to make an appointment.
- Time of visits will be during the hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Please try not to schedule your visits during the Resident's meal times of 8 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. Our daily Mass is at 11 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.
- Visits are 45 minutes, to allow time for you to disinfect surfaces before you leave.
- Visits can take place in designated areas outside or at the Cappuccino Corner. Please specify when you call where you would like to visit.
- Three visitors per Resident at a visit, including children. Children must be supervised at all times.
- Visitors are to go directly to the visitation area and are not to stop in other areas or to visit other Residents.
- If you and the Resident whom you are visiting are fully vaccinated, then you may have brief close contact with each other (like a hug). Visitors should not have close contact with other Residents or staff in the facility.
- There is continued risk of COVID-19 transmission. Therefore, all visitors must follow the core principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention:
 - o Stop at the Front Desk to be screened and have temperature taken. If you are not feeling well the day of the visit or if you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days of the visit, please reschedule for another day.
 - o Hand hygiene during your visit – sanitize/wash your hands when you first enter the building and then before and after entering the Resident's room.
 - o You must wear a clean surgical mask, covering both mouth and nose, throughout the entire visit.
 - o You must social distance from each other.
 - o At the end of your visit, please sanitize the table and chairs you were using for the next set of visitors.

Thank you for adhering to these guidelines and helping to keep all our Residents, staff and Sisters safe.