



Little Sisters of the Poor

Caring for the elderly poor since 1839

January 11, 2022

Dear Jeanne Jugan Community,

The RI Department of Health filed a new emergency regulation that requires long term care facility to deny entrance to any visitors* who do not provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19. For visitors who are not vaccinated against COVID-19, proof of a negative PCR Covid 19 test completed within the previous 72 hours or proof of a negative test result from a point-of-care rapid antigen test (e.g., Binax NOW) completed within the previous 48 hours must be provided to the staff prior to entry. Additionally, a visitor **MUST** keep a mask on throughout the duration of a visit with a resident.

The RI Department of Health anticipates that this new regulation will be time-limited. The number of COVID cases are increasing sharply in RI due to the virulent Omicron variant. Please plan ahead and bring a copy of your vaccination card or test results prior to visiting the Home. Please communicate this information to others who may be visiting your loved one. Do consider a video/telephone visit until the transmission rates begin to decline.

In addition, the RI DOH changed guidance for surveillance testing. Surveillance testing will occur once a week. All Residents tested on Monday were negative. A few staff members tested positive and were asymptomatic.

Please accept this as notification of the new emergency regulation. We will continue to keep you with RI Department of Health regulations and guidelines. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Mother Patricia Metzgar

** Visitor means and includes family members, friends, or other persons who visit or otherwise assisted the care of a resident in a long-term care facility. "Visitors" also includes persons who enter the long-term care facility and have direct resident contact.

JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

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