Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to update you on the ongoing activities Cabrini of Westchester has implemented to reduce the chance of infection transmission. Since visitor restriction remains a Department of Health mandate, we recognize the importance of keeping you updated regarding the presence of COVID-19 at Cabrini.

We continue to care for confirmed and suspect COVID-19 residents. Effective today, the Governor has issued an Executive Order that nursing home must heed the mandate not to accept COVID+ patients. The hospitals cannot discharge a patient to a nursing home unless the patient tests negative for COVID-19. The Governor also issued an Executive Order to test or make arrangements for the testing of all personnel for COVID-19 twice per week. We will have a plan developed by Wednesday, May 13th.

We recently have had seven recovered COVID-19 patients and plan to discharge back to unit or home in the community. We look forward to additional successes in the future. We have also been able to welcome back numerous staff who have recovered from COVID-19.

Cabrini has developed and implemented a plan to cohort confirmed and suspected COVID-19 patients as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health. Cohorting serves to provide physical separation of non-COVID-19 residents from those who are confirmed or suspect. COVID-19 patients are currently residing on dedicated COVID-19 units, remaining on droplet precautions and in single rooms or a double room without a roommate. There are dedicated nursing and CNAs for the COVID-19 unit to reduce the chance of infection. We have adequate PPE for our staff at the present time. The creation of these units has required that residents be temporarily moved throughout the facility, although we strive to move as few residents as possible. It is our policy that a designated representative be notified before a move is undertaken. Cabrini is following the DOH and CDC guidance regarding when isolation precautions may be discontinued for a resident. Discontinuation of isolation occurs when at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery; improvement in respiratory symptoms, and at least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

The availability of PCR testing has improved since we were last in contact with you. Initial testing was prioritized to COVID-19 suspect residents. On May 8, 2020 the Westchester County Department of Health, in a county-wide initiative completed testing of all residents at Cabrini of Westchester. We will receive results of testing within seven days.

There are several methods by which you can be updated regarding the presence of COVID-19 in Cabrini. As you have been previously notified, there is a dedicated telephone message updated daily that provides statistics on numbers of residents who are infected as well as any COVID-19 related deaths. Additionally, the Department of Health publishes facility-specific statistics at https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/diseases/covid-19/fatalities_nursing_home_acf.pdf.
A resident council meeting was held live by video last week, and displayed on resident TVs. At that time, Dr. Gold, Ms. Burke and Ms. Sandi Schreier provided COVID-19 updates to the residents.

Cabrini of Westchester continues to meet the challenges of this pandemic while providing the best care possible to our residents. We applaud the heroic efforts of our staff who come to work every day to provide the level of care for which Cabrini has been recognized. We also want to share our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of support from the Cabrini community. This display of generosity demonstrates to staff that their dedication is recognized and applauded.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to welcoming you back once restrictions can be lifted.

Please stay safe.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey C. Gold
Medical Director

Bonita Burke
Vice President of Operations/Administrator