

20 July 2020

**COVID COMMUNICATION NO. 21**

Dear Residents,

Our COVID update for Fleming House (Frail and Midcare) and the Estate is as follows:

We were most distressed to receive the news last Tuesday that Sister Mary had tested positive for COVID. She had been tested on the previous Friday and did not come in to work last Monday as she had already started to experience symptoms. Sister Mary is self-isolating and is being closely monitored by family.

Matron Yolanda was tested at the same time as Sister Mary and thankfully is negative.

Dr Ginsberg felt unwell on Wednesday last week and has tested positive. She continues to consult with Matron Yolanda telephonically on our Fleming patients and we sincerely appreciate this.

Phillipine, our Estate Nurse, and Sister Joy were both tested at the Killarney Country Club last week Tuesday (they had been exposed when attending to Maggie Holliday on the previous Tuesday). Phillipine's results have come back and thankfully she is negative. We are still waiting to get Sister Joy's result but we can confirm that she has not had any symptoms at all for which we are grateful.

Phillipine's negative result does mean that the 3 Residents who had to be quarantined because they had been visited by Phillipine the day after attending to Maggie, can now come out of quarantine (Salome Halpern/Laura Scher/Win Chapman).

Sadly, two more of our Residents in frail care (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) have passed away due to COVID and their pre-existing ailments and frailty. Both Residents were being treated palliatively as per their family's wishes and passed peacefully:

- Mr John Martinho passed away on Monday 13 July
- Mrs Carolyn Spyker passed away on Sunday 19 July

Our sincere condolences go to their family and friends.

**Midcare:**

**We still have 34 Residents in Midcare.**

Our Resident who is still in the Linksfield Clinic is holding his own and his daughter is wanting to have him discharged as she believes he will do so much better back at Randjes with people he knows.

All the other Midcare Residents are doing well at this stage. They remain confined to their rooms which is not easy for them, but we believe that this is the reason why we have had no further COVID cases in Midcare.

### **Ground Floor Frail Care:**

#### **There are now 13 Residents on the ground floor (12 last week)**

We transferred one of the positive patients from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to the ground floor isolation ward as she was missing her friend. Both ladies are doing well and much happier now that they are next to each other again.

- The patient whose result we were waiting for in our last communication has tested positive as has 1 other patient who was tested after our communication had gone out last week. Both ladies are in private wards on the ground floor and both their families have indicated that they do not want their loved ones to go to hospital in the event they get worse.
- The status of all the other patients in our isolation wards varies from doing well and stable to recuperating well – some are even doing well without oxygen therapy which is an encouraging sign.
- At this point in time we have 3 patients (all in private rooms) who have shown no symptoms of COVID. All 3 families want their loved ones to remain at Randjes.

### **First Floor Frail Care:**

#### **There are now 11 Residents on the first floor**

- We still have 1 Resident who is COVID positive – doing well without oxygen therapy
- We have 10 Residents who have shown no symptoms and have therefore not been tested

### **On the Estate**

Prof. Muriel Goodman has recovered really well and her doctor says she is no longer infectious. She was discharged today and will return to her cottage (114 Carlingford) with her 2 Carers.

**Once again we ask that you continue to pray for the speedy recovery of all of our Residents and our staff members who are struggling with COVID right now.**

I thought I would share one of the many positive messages we have received from family members of the Residents in Fleming House...

*“Thank you for the update Yolanda. I cannot imagine the stress, pressure and exhaustion you must be experiencing. Dr Abrams commended you and your staff on the standard of work you are providing. Dr Abrams also mentioned that she has been in a number of health care facilities recently dealing with this pandemic. She feels confident that Mom is getting the best care possible. She mentioned that she has seen nurses shy away from COVID positive patients in other facilities but that is not the case at Fleming House. She specifically said that Mom is in the best place she could be right now and that she is getting the best care – we realise that you are all putting yourselves at risk with what you are doing and we thank you so much for that.”*

High praise indeed from a doctor for our frontline staff in Fleming House who make us proud every day!

Stay safe and stay healthy...and remember This Too Shall Pass” – we don’t know when, but it will!



Warm regards  
Gail

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