

Dear Loretto Family Members,

As I am sure you have seen on the news, we continue to experience positive cases among our residents at Loretto Health & Rehabilitation. Our team is always deeply affected by the impact of this virus on our residents and staff, and our hearts are with these individuals and their families.

I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to get in front of this, we have proactively consulted with the Department of Health, because we are in an orange zone, employees at Loretto Health & Rehabilitation are being tested twice a week, and residents are tested on a regular schedule established with the DOH as well. And our latest infection control survey performed last week by the DOH was deficiency-free.

While infection control protocols are in place to reduce to the lowest potential for transmission, it's still a highly contagious virus and is spreading rapidly in our region and in all long-term care communities.

Our staff continues to do everything it possibly can to keep COVID outside our doors, and our employees have made tremendous personal sacrifices to limit their own exposure. But they still need to go to grocery stores in order to feed their families. Their children need to go to school or daycare. And many of our employees rely on public transportation.

Every facility in our community is dealing with this. We NEED the community to stay home whenever possible and follow the recommended safety guidelines, including wearing masks, washing or sanitizing your hands, and social distancing.

Yesterday, I released this [video](#), which can also be found on our family visitation page on [lorettocny.org](http://lorettocny.org), to all our local media outlets imploring the community to stay home and follow safety guidelines, explaining how community spread affects employees who care for our most vulnerable population.

I can't emphasize enough how important infection control protocols are for all of us, including wearing masks, washing hands, and social distancing. These are the measures that will truly help us collectively reduce the spread of this virus.

I appreciate your patience and understanding during this very difficult time.

Thank you,



Dr. Kimberly Townsend, President & CEO