

9/14/2020

Greetings Friends and Families,

I am happy to once again report that we have no diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in our buildings. This track record is extraordinary considering the effects this pandemic has had on our region, state, and nation. We are increasingly concerned as the number of active cases rise in both McPherson and adjacent counties. Our staff remain vigilant about their own health condition and remain at home the moment they demonstrate any symptoms of illness. I continue to pray that this virus passes us by.

At this time, we continue to screen all staff and essential visitors prior to entering the building. We have developed a testing plan for all staff in accordance with CMS guidelines, but have not received our point of care testing machine. Once that machine is received, we will commence testing of staff as long as testing supplies remain available to us. We have also confirmed that our Alternate Care Site in McPherson is available to us should we have an outbreak of COVID, and we are preparing to “shelter in place” should the Alternate Site no longer be available to us. Our team explores options on a regular basis to plan for all contingencies and provide the quality care you have come to rely on.

Recently, telephone calls have dramatically increased. Our staff are doing their best to return calls and forward calls as much as humanly possible. It is our goal to make sure you remain connected to your loved one and that you are provided the updates you need. We understand the mandated closure to visitors is as stressful to you as it is to us. Due to the high number of calls, we ask your understanding if a phone is not answered immediately or if a return call is delayed. If your call is not answered, our staff are most likely on another line with another family or a medical provider. We are working on a plan to address the number of calls coming in and appreciate your understanding as we work out the details. If you are comfortable requesting updates by e-mail, please contact Sara Anderson, Director of Nursing, or Jema Koehn, Assistant Director of Nursing, to make contact. Email allows our staff to respond between calls and when they have time between provision of care.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for the kindness and support you have shown through this pandemic. Your understanding and compassion, not only to Bethany Village staff but also to your fellow community members, has been key to the successes we’ve witnessed. The expression “It takes a Village” has never been more true, and we are grateful to have you as friends, neighbors, and supporters.

Sincerely,



**Kris Erickson, CEO**

## URGENT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 14, 2020

**TO:** All Bethany Home Association Community Members and Visitors

**FROM:** Kris Erickson, CEO

**RE:** COVID-19 Update from Our Community - What It Means for You

Dear Bethany Home Association Residents, Families, Staff, and Community Members,

As the novel coronavirus situation in Kansas continues to evolve, we must adapt and prepare for the reality that we may start having confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community. As you know, in compliance with CDC and CMS guidelines, we have been actively screening all vendors, visiting medical personnel, and employees for symptoms of upper respiratory illnesses. Additionally, since March 12th we have been following all CDC and CMS guidelines for infection control and prevention, including enhanced sanitization of community spaces, modification of services to promote social distancing, and providing personal protective equipment for healthcare personnel and residents.

In the past week, we have had no positive COVID diagnoses among those who reside with us. We have had one staff member who was placed on precautionary at home quarantine but did not have COVID-19. There is no current concern regarding COVID related illness or outbreak for our organization as of this writing. Our staff continue to monitor their personal health and remain at home when they feel there is a potential to bring illness of any kind to our buildings.

Bethany Home Association remains in Phase 1 of our gradual reopening plan. Phase 1 permits scheduled visits in our visiting booth and allows for essential workers to provide services within our building. All staff and essential workers are screened before entering the building. As a reminder, we cannot advance through phases until the county reaches Phase Out.

Thank you, to all our community members, for your dedication, hard work, and commitment, today and every day. Together, we can ensure that Bethany Home Association has the best chance to stay ahead of the coronavirus.

We thank you for your cooperation and compliance with basic preventative measures we can all practice, such as good hand hygiene, social distancing and staying home when sick. Together, we can help everyone stay healthy and well.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to:

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Best Wishes,



Kris Erickson, CEO  
Bethany Home Association