

10/19/2020

Dear Friends and Families,

As a part of our mandated reporting guidelines, I am sending this weekly update on its regularly scheduled date. In the attached letter, you will note that although we have two staff members who tested positive for COVID-19, our point of care antigen testing has revealed no concerns since the illnesses were brought to our attention. It remains our hope that these are isolated incidents, that those affected have a rapid recovery, and that this serves as a reminder to remain vigilant in personal safety practices. We continue to strongly encourage the use of masks, good hand hygiene, social distancing, and carefully considering the necessity of attending public events. Community data from both McPherson and Saline counties show that the pandemic remains in our region.

We continue to require all staff to engage in standard precautionary procedures, and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to keep this virus away from those we serve. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

In addition to this update, I would like to share that we are already planning for the coming holidays. Although we cannot open our doors as we once did, we are hoping to accommodate multiple families, by appointment, to share a meal with their loved one. Our staff are working on additional plexiglass visitation areas that will permit us to adhere to currently required safety protocols. While we cannot accommodate all families on each holiday, it is our hope to book a visitation and mealtime for all we serve. Families will be encouraged to bring a meal of their choice and we will serve our residents from our open menu options. The success of this planning is contingent on community health and the continued health of all in our buildings. Should an outbreak occur, we will be required to end all visitation. If we are required to enact this contingency, we are making plans to create a similar experience using video calling and large televisions. While we understand these experiences may not be what we all had hoped for, please understand that our staff are working tirelessly to accommodate as much as possible given the current federal mandates and restrictions.

As I speak with staff, I can confidently say that we all miss having families and friends here in the building with us. We pray for an end to this pandemic so that we can all be reunited. Until that day arrives, please know that your loved ones are cherished, valued, cared for, and that we are doing all in our power to bring everyone through this safely.

Sincerely,

Kris Erickson

## URGENT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 19, 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.

As noted in previous communications we have two staff who have tested positive for COVID-19. They are undergoing at home quarantine until deemed safe to return to work. Please join us in prayer for a rapid recovery. We have three staff who have been advised to quarantine at home for potential community exposure unrelated to their work. We also have two staff who are undiagnosed but undergoing precautionary quarantine as advised by an outside agency.

Bethany Home continues to screen all staff prior to their workday and is also conducting mandatory weekly antigen testing of all staff. Since the last report, no new concerns have been identified through this testing. We continue to practice all available safety protocols to protect the health and well-being of all in our organization.

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. While CMS has released a new visitation guidance, our current practices align with the guidance and we will continue to work to keep families and loved ones connected. For those wishing to schedule a visitation, please contact our Activities Department.

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:

Kris Erickson, CEO	<a href="mailto:kerickson@bethanyhome.com">kerickson@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-2334 x111
Skylar Hanson, RN- Assisted Living Operator	<a href="mailto:shanson@bethanyhome.com">shanson@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-8331
Sara Anderson, RN-Director of Nursing	<a href="mailto:sanderson@bethanyhome.com">sanderson@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-2334 x159
Jema Koehn, LPN-Asst. Director of Nursing	<a href="mailto:jkoehn@bethanyhome.com">jkoehn@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-234 x144
Jayne Daily, RN – Infection Control	<a href="mailto:jdaily@bethanyhome.com">jdaily@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-2334 x180

Best Wishes,



Kris Erickson, CEO  
Bethany Home Association