

## URGENT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 23, 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,

I am writing to report that our point of care testing has identified two staff as positive for COVID-19. We now have a total of seven staff undergoing at-home quarantine precautions. We continue to monitor six residents identified as being positive for COVID-19. One previously identified person has met recovery guidelines and a second is discharging to home. Many of those identified are on their way to recovery, and we continue to pray for those who face challenges.

**If you or your loved one has been affected, you will be contacted directly.** We understand you may have concerns and we ask for your patience and understanding as we work through our existing response protocols. Hospitals are not admitting individuals with sub-acute needs. We are currently following advice provided by physicians, County Health, and County Emergency management to provide in-room quarantine care for COVID positive individuals. Designated staff are working with those affected and are wearing full personal protective equipment. Meals are being delivered to rooms. We are following infection prevention guidance to provide care and quality meals in a safe and efficient manner.

To minimize the risk of potential spread, we are isolating each neighborhood within Bethany Home and minimizing unnecessary staff movement between neighborhoods. Residents with a positive diagnosis or potential exposure to someone with COVID-19 are being asked to undergo in-room quarantine precautions. We are also suspending visits at our visitation area, but our large screen video calling, Zoom, and tele-visits are available to family and loved ones. Closed window visits are still permitted. As we address this emerging situation, it remains our goal to keep loved ones connected. The positive cases require us to revert to Phase 0 of our Reopening Plan. This means that only staff and essential medical personnel will be allowed in our building. Compassionate Care visits will continue but will require advanced precautionary measures including full Personal Protective Equipment. Staff will assist with these visits. Please contact Sara Anderson or Jema Koehn to make arrangements.

At this time we are following guidance provided by McPherson County Health Department. We are continuing our point of care COVID testing. Individuals identified as suspected positive through in-house antigen testing will be referred for confirmatory PCR testing. We pray for the health and wellbeing of all affected individuals and ask you to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

McPherson County Health Department has advised that all unaffected staff should remain at work and follow standard precautionary protocols. We will continue to screen all staff as they arrive at work, wear masks, practice good hand hygiene, and we will be conducting point of care testing of staff as advised under current regulatory guidance.

We also ask you, as community members, to practice safety standards to protect our staff and residents. Our dedicated caregivers rely on each of you to keep them healthy when they are not at work. Together we can overcome this virus, and your assistance in the effort is appreciated.

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

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Best Wishes,



Kris Erickson, CEO  
Bethany Home Association