

## URGENT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 9, 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,

The last week has been a busy one as we have engaged our COVID-19 response protocols, implemented precautionary measures, conducted in-house testing, and continued our work to keep everyone healthy and safe.

As of this week, we have two staff contacts who were diagnosed as COVID positive, both are undergoing at-home quarantine and recovery. We have seven other staff undergoing precautionary at-home quarantine for suspected community contact and exposure to COVID positive cases. We have one resident with a presumed positive diagnosis of COVID-19. The resident is undergoing in-room quarantine. We are practicing in-room quarantine isolation precautions for any residents who may have had contact with the known positive staff members. Testing of residents who may have been exposed has resulted in no other identified concerns.

**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.

To minimize the risk of potential spread, we are isolating each neighborhood within Bethany Home and minimizing unnecessary staff movement between neighborhoods. We are also temporarily suspending visits at our visitation area, but we will accelerate our plans to expand video calling, Zoom, and tele-visits with family and loved ones. As we address this emerging situation, it remains our goal to keep loved ones connected. The suspected positive case requires 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.

At this time we are following guidance provided by McPherson County Health Department. We are continuing our point of care testing and will provide additional tests to those determined to be “close contacts” to those affected. “Close contact” is considered to be anyone who was within six feet of the affected individual for longer than 10 minutes. Individuals identified as suspected positive through in-house antigen testing will be referred for confirmatory PCR testing. We pray for the health and well being of the 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:

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