

## URGENT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 31, 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,

Since the last report, we have identified no new cases of COVID-19 among our residents. Currently six staff members are on at home quarantine, three confirmed having COVID-19, three having close contact with an affected individual and awaiting testing results. Our current totals now include ZERO positive residents and six total staff on at-home quarantine precautions. To date, 21 residents have met full recovery guidelines and 26 staff have made a full recovery. We ask for your continued prayers for those affected, and we remain committed in our fight against this pandemic.

Although we have no actively identified positive cases, we continue to follow quarantine precautions until the risk of viral transmission has been effectively eliminated. For those in neighborhoods that remain under quarantine, 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. Newly admitted residents are carefully assessed, tested for COVID, and are being asked to undergo in-room quarantine precautions. The continued precautionary quarantine requires us to remain in 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 visitation 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 and PCR testing of staff as advised under current regulatory guidance.

We have been advised to seek approval to move to Phase 1 of reopening on January 14, 2020. If approved, we will be allowed to resume visits at our Visitation Station and barber and beauty services will be allowed back in the building. It is our hope to progress toward a full reopening in the coming months.

We are also receiving our first round of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a two-dose series and all residents and staff who have consented will receive vaccination. A second vaccination will occur approximately three weeks after the first vaccination.

We also ask 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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Sincerely,



Kris Erickson, CEO  
Bethany Home Association