

3/2/2021

Dear Families and Friends,

I'm happy to report that today's testing showed no positive results! This morning, we also saw "two green dots" on our state COVID-19 metrics report. "Two green dots" means that our region has had two weeks with a COVID-19 positivity rate under 5%. This is great news and trending shows that the viral presence in our community has declined steadily for nearly a month. With this new information, we can submit a new application for in-room "Compassionate Care" visitations. This application must be approved before we can begin scheduling, but we have had internal discussions on the best way to proceed while still meeting all State and Federal Regulations.

It is our hope that we can begin scheduling in-room "Compassionate Care" visitation by March 15th. We will test our in-room visitations for those in greatest need during the week of March 8th, and by invitation only. To stay in compliance with regulations, we must first document the need for a "Compassionate Care" visit as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Knowing this, if you aren't in the first group scheduled, please understand that there are some we serve who are at greater risk for a decline in social-emotional well-being.

If a need for a "Compassionate Care" visit is identified, visitors will be required to wear masks, sanitize hands, undergo screening, and visitors may be required to submit to COVID-19 testing. (Don't worry, this is the quick swab in the outer nostrils.) At this time, vaccination status has no bearing on regulations regarding visits. Visits must be scheduled, and only two visitors/resident will be allowed due to distancing requirements. Visitors will be asked to read the visitation guidelines and sign that they understand and will abide by the guidelines. These in-room visits must occur only in privately occupied rooms and commons areas cannot be used. Because these visits are scheduled, and due to screening and testing requirements, we will accommodate as many as possible, but please understand that we have limited availability due to the time, tests, and materials that these visits require. We are not publicizing this widely as it is our hope to prioritize family and close friends over acquaintances. The ability to visit is also closely tied to county positivity rates, so please do your best to keep your friends and neighbors healthy!

Finally, I would like to address some very common questions. Yes, we did see the KWCH news story about visitations. The story occurred at an assisted living home in Wichita, and they are under different regulations than those we are required to follow. They are also in a different county with a different positivity ranking. From what we have seen of the news story, we believe that the assisted living home will soon be receiving a state inspection and may be cited for multiple regulatory infractions. We wish them luck, and we hope you understand that at this time we are following all protective regulatory guidelines as we work toward bringing families together.

It is my sincerest hope that we are close to seeing the end of this virus. We remain dedicated to preserving the health and well-being of all who reside with us. We are also adhering to regulatory requirements so we can continue to serve your loved ones. We appreciate your understanding as we navigate through new rules, regulations, changing information, and as we work to find the best solutions. Once our plan is approved, we will provide contact information for arranging in-room Compassionate Care visits. In the meantime, please continue to schedule patio visits, Skype, Zoom, and Visitation Station time.

Be well, be safe, and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Kris

URGENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2021

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 our last report, we continue to have no cases of COVID-19 among our residents, but have one COVID-19 case among staff. This staff member is currently on at-home quarantine precautions. If you or your loved one has been affected, you will be contacted directly. We ask for your continued prayers for those affected by this virus.

We have successfully applied to move back to Phase 1 of our Reopening Plan. Some essential service workers will be allowed to enter our building, and we can resume arranged visits at our Visitation Station. If you would like to arrange a visit, please contact our Activities Department. Compassionate Care visits will continue but require advanced precautionary measures including full Personal Protective Equipment. Staff will assist with these visits. Please contact Sara Anderson or Jema Koehn to make in-room Compassionate Care 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.

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.

It is our hope to progress toward a full reopening in the coming months. Our ability to progress to a full reopening will depend on the health of our greater community. Once regional positivity rates have decreased to a level that no longer warrants concern, we should be granted permission to reopen our doors to in-person visits. Our success depends on you!

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:

Kris Erickson, CEO	kerickson@bethanyhome.com	785-227-2334 x111
Melissa Brumbaugh, Bethany Home Administrator	mbrumbaugh@bethanyhome.com	785-227-2334 x195
Skylar Hanson, RN- Sunflower Terrace Operator	shanson@bethanyhome.com	785-227-8331
Sara Anderson, RN-Director of Nursing	sanderson@bethanyhome.com	785-227-2334 x159
Jema Koehn, LPN-Asst. Director of Nursing	jkoehn@bethanyhome.com	785-227-2334 x144
Jayne Daily, RN – Infection Control	jdaily@bethanyhome.com	785-227-2334 x180

Sincerely,



Kris Erickson, CEO
Bethany Home Association