

URGENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 16, 2021

TO: All Bethany Home Association Community Members and Visitors

FROM: Melissa Brumbaugh, Administrator

RE: COVID-19 Update from Our Community - What It Means for You

Dear Bethany Home Association Residents, Families, Staff, and Community Members,

Since our report on November 14, 2021, we have identified one new case of COVID-19 in our staff. Contact tracing was completed and we did not identify any close contacts in our residents or staff. To date, we have two staff members on at-home quarantine precautions and one that has met full recovery guidelines.

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.

Per guidance from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) on 11/12/2021, an appointment will no longer be required, nor will there be a time limit on the amount of time you can spend with your loved one. At this time, we ask that you use the East or West entrance, ring the doorbell when you arrive, and wait for a staff member to assist you with the screening process and escort you to your loved one's room. **Due to level of community transmission, masks and physical distancing will be required at all times while in Bethany Home.** Visitors are asked to avoid common areas, **restricting visits to the resident's room only.** When you have concluded your visit, we ask that you directly exit the building, again avoiding common areas. Safety remains our top priority regarding visitation. We appreciate your patience, and more information will be coming as we continue to work through the new guidance issued by CMS.

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:

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Sincerely,



Melissa Brumbaugh, Administrator
Bethany Home Association