

URGENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2022

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 last update, we have identified three new cases of COVID-19 in our staff. **If you or your loved one has been affected, you will be contacted directly.** To date, we have ten staff members on at-home quarantine precautions for COVID-19 and three on at-home quarantine precautions due to respiratory illnesses. Nine staff are considered to have met full recovery guidelines. Our residents remain COVID free, however we do have five residents on precautions due to respiratory illnesses.

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. Due to the McPherson County level of community transmission, we continue to test our staff twice a week. Our next testing date will be Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

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. The McPherson County Health Department has recommended that at this time we continue to allow only unopened food items for the resident to enjoy without sharing during the visit or at a later time.** 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 also 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 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