

URGENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2023

TO: All Bethany Home Association Community Members and Visitors

FROM: Kris Erickson, CEO / Administrator via Jennifer Cantrell, Marketing Director

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

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

We have identified 3 new cases of COVID-19 among our residents since our last update. There are now thirteen residents under COVID-19 precautions. If your loved one has been affected, you will be contacted directly. We also have six staff who have tested positive for COVID-19. As added precautions, we are discouraging large group gatherings, heightening recommendations on 6' distancing, requiring KN95 mask use among all staff, and reducing interactions between each neighborhood. At this time, those who have tested positive are not showing strong symptoms of illness.

We continue to follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the McPherson County Health Department.

Visitation always remains open for all residents. **Per guidance from CMS and the CDC on 9/23/2022**, visitors with confirmed COVID-19 infection or compatible symptoms should defer non-urgent in-person visitation until they meet CDC criteria for healthcare settings to end isolation.

(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html) For visitors who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection, it is safest to defer non-urgent in-person visitation until 10 days after their close contact if they meet the criteria described in CDC healthcare guidance.

(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html)

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. **Visitors are no longer required to actively screen in** but are reminded to follow the updated CMS and CDC guidance on when to defer non-urgent visitation. Due to the McPherson County transmission level, **masks are required and physical distancing is encouraged while in the common areas of Bethany Home**. Masks may be removed while visiting in the resident's room. Visitors may bring outside food in to share in the resident's room during visits. 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.

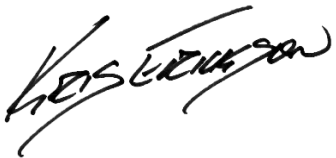
McPherson County Health Department has also advised that all unaffected staff should remain at work and follow standard precautionary protocols. Staff will continue to wear masks (as required by the CDC and CMS), practice good hand hygiene, and we will be conducting point-of-care testing as advised under 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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Amy Mapes, BSN-Director of Nursing	amapes@bethanyhome.com	785-227-2334 x159
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Sincerely,



Kris Erickson, CEO / Administrator
Bethany Home Association