

## URGENT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 13, 2024

**TO:** All Bethany Village Community Members and Visitors

**FROM:** Kris Erickson, CEO / Administrator

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

Dear Bethany Village Residents, Families, Staff, and Community Members,

Since our last update, we have had one resident test positive with COVID. If your loved one has been exposed, you will already have been notified.

Per our infection control policy, the mandatory isolation time for respiratory illness such as COVID 19, influenza, or RSV is 5 days after positive identification or onset of symptoms. **Staff are required to wear a mask and visitors are strongly encouraged to wear a mask until the last case clears.** Release time is based on reduction of symptoms after the 5th day.

We would like to remind everyone to be diligent with hand hygiene and watch for any potential symptoms of COVID (cough, stuffy nose, sore throat, headache, some nausea or vomiting). If you are not feeling well, please consider delaying your visit, or wearing a mask and socially distance yourself from others.

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

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. One positive COVID resident at Bethany Home is

considered an outbreak. Since we have a **positive resident, masks will be required, and physical distancing will be encouraged** while in the common areas of Bethany Home. Masks may be removed while visiting in a healthy resident's room. 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.

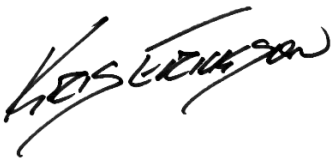
McPherson County Health Department has also advised that all unaffected staff should remain at work and follow standard precautionary protocols. Staff will continue to wear masks (when required by the CDC and CMS), practice good hand hygiene, and we will be conducting point-of-care testing as advised 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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Sincerely,



Kris Erickson, CEO / Administrator  
Bethany Home Association