

## URGENT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 21, 2023

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

**FROM:** Kris Erickson, CEO / Administrator  
Kaitlynn Kennedy, RN, Director of Assisted Living

**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 currently have one Sunflower Terrace community member who has tested positive for COVID-19 today 12/21/2023.

If your loved one tested positive, we have already notified you. Chantel, Holly, and I will be retesting Community Members on day 3 and day 5.

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. Release time is based on reduction of symptoms after the 5th day. Since we do have a positive Community Member, staff will be required to wear a mask until fourteen days after the last case clears. Masking should end (if no more positive cases) on January 5, 2023. We do encourage visitors to wear masks while visiting their loved ones.

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 is considered an outbreak and **masks will be required and physical distancing will be encouraged** while in the common areas of Bethany Home or Sunflower Terrace. 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.

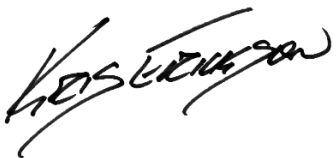
McPherson County Health Department has also advised that all unaffected staff should remain at work and follow standard precautionary protocols. Staff will continue to wear masks (when required by the CDC and CMS), practice good hand hygiene, and we will be conducting point-of-care testing as advised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

Kris Erickson, CEO	<a href="mailto:kerickson@bethanyhome.com">kerickson@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-2334 x111
Amy Mapes, BSN-Director of Nursing	<a href="mailto:amapes@bethanyhome.com">amapes@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-2334 x159
Jema Koehn, LPN-Asst. Director of Nursing	<a href="mailto:jkoehn@bethanyhome.com">jkoehn@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-2334 x144
Jayne Daily, RN-Infection Control	<a href="mailto:jdaily@bethanyhome.com">jdaily@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-2334 x180
Kaitlynn Kennedy, RN- Director of Assisted Living	<a href="mailto:kkennedy@bethanyhome.com">kkennedy@bethanyhome.com</a>	785-227-8331 x200

Sincerely,



Kris Erickson, CEO / Administrator

Bethany Home Association