

**ALL STAFF/FAMILIES/RESIDENT ALERT:**

On Monday, December 14, 2020, we completed rapid testing on all of our residents/tenants/staff. This testing round identified 2 residents, 1 staff member and 1 contract staff person as positive for COVID-19. At this time, we have 7 residents of long term care in isolation precautions. 2 residents from previous reporting came off of precautions yesterday.

We currently have a total of 6 staff out of work due to testing COVID positive and 2 staff out due to high risk exposures. All staff are doing well and recovering at home.

Although these results are difficult to hear, we are so very grateful for all of our amazing staff who come to work every day with a caring and compassionate attitude to brighten the days of our residents. Each department at BLHCC has stepped up to the challenge of caring for residents during a pandemic and although this is new territory for everyone, they have done a fantastic job in the face of adversity! Even though there are days that we leave feeling defeated, especially with residents and staff continuing to test positive, we are also feeling blessed with residents and families who support us and a great team at BLHCC who care for one another, our residents, and tenants.

We can also feel the support and prayers from our communities. We are grateful for those who sent Christmas cards, donated presents and treats for both the residents and staff and let us know they are thinking of us. Thank you!

News of a vaccine gives us hope. In Minnesota, the Moderna vaccine is to be used for residents and staff in long term care. The Moderna vaccine is being reviewed this week by the FDA. Hopefully this process will be completed this week so distribution can begin shortly. The Moderna vaccine is given in two steps, 28 days apart. CVS Pharmacy will be coming out and administering the vaccine. We will be providing more information about the vaccine process as we get further instructions.

BLHCC Activity Department has been extra busy getting our home ready for the holidays! There are trees up in many of the common areas and our Activity Staff has been decorating individual rooms as well! Our new Activity Room is a flurry of gifts, decorations and plans to make Christmas 2020 at BLHCC the best that it can be. The thought of residents and families missing each other during this special season weighs heavily on all of us.

If you would like to call, Facetime or Zoom with your loved one, please use Sign Up Genius on our website, [www.blhcc.org](http://www.blhcc.org) or contact the Activity Department to set up a time. We have hired an additional Activity Staff just for helping with keeping residents and families connected in this manner and have a full day of calls planned for Christmas day, please sign up now to reserve your time.

We have also been so grateful for the ability to have live entertainment and worship services in our home with the ability to broadcast the event live over our BLHCC In House channel. If you have a special talent you would like to share, please let us know and we will get you on the schedule.

In closing, we would like to add that while this holiday season may look different than previous ones, there will still be many blessings, especially if you are looking for them. You can choose to find new blessings amongst the restrictions, rather than focusing on the negative. Some blessings will be expected, and others unanticipated. Please know that we consider each of you reading this a blessing!

Sincerely,

Mark Rust, Administrator  
Kendra Hiles, Director of Nursing