

BLHCC and Westview Estates  
Staff/Family/Resident/Tenant COVID-19 Update  
November 19, 2020

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

This week we send out our update with very heavy hearts. We have received the final results of our facility wide testing from Monday 11/16/20. We tested 126 residents/tenants and staff and have a total of eight positive staff this week, this number includes the staff that we have reported earlier this week. They are staff from almost every department and for this we are thankful. This means no staff is having to step into a role they are not familiar with. Our staff are jumping in to help each other and the teamwork we are witnessing is amazing, thank you for this! Most of the positive staff are asymptomatic (showing no symptoms or very mild symptoms) although, we are seeing staff develop symptoms after they are notified of their test results, yet they have been mild. We also have two positive assisted living tenants. At this time our assisted living tenants are showing no symptoms. We are monitoring them in house very closely and keeping them quarantined to their rooms. We pray for full recovery of our staff, the impacted tenants, and the numerous community members that are positive. May everyone find strength to fight this awful virus!

We will continue to test all staff/residents and tenants. Today we did rapid tests on all the negative assisted living tenants and have no new positive tests. This week our county prevalence rate has jumped to 14.2%. This means we will begin twice a week testing on 11/30/2020. Our plan is once a week we will do a lab test on everyone. The staff will get tested a second time with the rapid antigen test. Testing of staff will be Monday's and Thursday's. Residents will be tested on Thursday's.

As we look ahead to the holidays please keep in mind that social gatherings are not recommended. We do not want anyone leaving this facility unless it is an absolute must. "This virus does not care that it is a holiday". We do not take this lightly and want to protect everyone we care for. Eating and drinking around others without a face covering is a high risk activity. We also recommend staff do not get together with members outside of their immediate family setting. As per direction of the Minnesota Department of Health, if a resident or tenant goes out to a social gathering we will be placing them on a 14 day quarantine upon return. This means staff will need to wear full PPE to enter that room, the resident/tenant is not to leave their room/apartment for 14 days. We will then monitor them for any symptoms of COVID-19. This is a burden to our staff that is already stretched thin and causes increased social isolation for the resident/tenant. We go through a very large amount of PPE for anyone in a quarantine or isolation situation. It also places our whole facility at increased risk. With the potential for a safe and effective vaccine on the horizon, extra precautions are essential to protect our nursing home residents until a vaccine becomes available.

The Activity staff is hard at work to come up with ideas of how you can still make your loved ones holidays a special time even if you are unable to be together physically. At this time if you could email a picture or video to Lyn at [atotenhagen@blhcc.org](mailto:atotenhagen@blhcc.org) saying "Happy Thanksgiving" by 11/23/20, she will work on putting them into a special collection to broadcast on our in house TV channel. You can also send cards/letters, make phone calls, or drop off a "care package".

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While essential care visits are allowed to continue per CMS guidelines, we are asking you to refrain from visiting. If you feel you need to visit at this time please call ahead to arrange a visit. Community transmission rates are higher than they have ever been and we ask that you find other ways to connect with your loved one. As we move through the weeks ahead we all need to do our part to slow the progression of this virus.

Window visits continue to be encouraged but we know the weather is against us again for these. If you wish to schedule a video visit we have set up a Sign Up Genius on our website [www.blhcc.org](http://www.blhcc.org) for Zoom calls. The activity department will assist residents/tenants with these calls. This is a great way to connect with those you cannot see. If you have any questions about this process or need assistance, please contact Activities at 320-833-5364 ext. 36. We also encourage everyone to “Like” us on Facebook.

This is a time of Thanksgiving. We are so very appreciative of all of our residents/tenants/staff/and families. Our team at BLHCC is committed to keeping you connected during this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing