

ALL STAFF/FAMILIES/RESIDENT ALERT:

We have received the final results of our facility wide testing from Monday 10/26/20. We have confirmed **one positive staff** person this week. That staff is asymptomatic (no symptoms) and is now home monitoring for symptoms and off of work during the quarantine period. The two staff that were positive last week are doing well. One has returned to work already and one remains at home with mild symptoms and will be returning to work if all goes well next week. We are beyond happy to report no positive resident/tenant cases this week. We are following the Minnesota Health Department Guidelines for return to work criteria, if you are interested this is the link to those guidelines <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/hcwrecs.pdf>

Staff that are out of work during a COVID-19 illness or have symptoms of COVID-19 and are waiting test results are paid for the time they are out of work without having to use their vacation/sick time. We have had countless staff that have stepped up to fill in hours and make sure our residents receive the best care possible, thank you to all of you!!! We are blessed to have such a caring and dedicated team!

We will continue to test all staff/residents and tenants on weekly basis as we are still in outbreak testing (even one case of COVID-19 is considered to be an outbreak) and need to have two consecutive weeks of all negative tests before we can stop testing residents weekly. Staff testing will depend on our county prevalence rate of COVID-19 cases. We also continue to require testing for any staff who show two or more symptoms of COVID-19, and place any residents that show symptoms are placed under transmission based precautions pending the determination of a diagnosis for their symptoms.

We are excited to announce that we have resumed essential care visits and many residents have had visits this week. This means if you have been approved as an essential caregiver in the past you are welcome to call and set up a time to return to visit your loved one. If you have not been approved and are wondering if you can visit please contact Michelle or Kendra at 320-833-5364. In order to be able to maintain these visits it is extremely important that everyone follow the safety guidelines. These include: scheduling the visit in advance, wearing the appropriate PPE at all times, entering door #13 and being screened, traveling straight to the resident's room/apartment and exiting straight out door #13. Also be sure to sign out when you leave and have the resident/tenant you are visiting wear a mask during your visit. No eating during your visit please.

Indoor visits are on hold at this time. We have a plan to begin these visits once we are all COVID-19 negative for 2 consecutive weeks. These visits will be for anyone wishing to see a resident or tenant and will be set up through our website at www.blhcc.org. These visits will take place in our new community room. This room will have additional safety precautions, including added exhaust ventilation. These visits will be supervised from a distance to maintain infection control precautions. Window visits continue to be encouraged, at this time, the window should remain closed. If you wish to schedule a video visit, please contact Lyn in Activities at 320-833-5364 ext. 36.

Just a reminder that we will be having a Scavenger Hunt outside of the building for kids on Halloween. This is a way that even though the kids cannot come into the building, the residents will still be able to see the little ones in their costumes. We will have individually packaged candy for the kids to pick up after they do the Scavenger Hunt on Saturday October 31st from 5pm-6pm. Hopefully our weather cooperates. Watch our Facebook page for more details.

This week we wished our longest employee of the Buffalo Lake Healthcare Center the best in her retirement. Paula Jakobitz retired after 43 years at BLHCC. We thank everyone who came out to the Parade on 10/25/2020 in honor of Paula's last day, sent her a card, greeting or wished her well from afar. She was overwhelmed to say the least. We will miss her in so many ways: her dedication, the countless lives she has touched, her sense of humor and ability to inspire others will not be forgotten. Thank you Paula! Enjoy retirement!!

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing