

ALL STAFF/FAMILIES/RESIDENT ALERT:

We have received the final results of our facility wide testing from Monday 11/9/20. We tested 130 residents/tenants and staff and have **one positive staff this week**. That staff is asymptotic (showing no symptoms or very mild symptoms). As our county numbers soar, our state numbers skyrocket and we feel the direct impact of loved ones in our community that are struggling with positive results we are so very humbled by this news. We pray for full recovery of our staff and community members, may they find the strength to fight this awful virus.

We will continue to test all staff/residents and tenants on weekly basis as we are still in outbreak testing. We need to all be negative for 2 weeks and then we will transition to staff only testing. This week our county prevalence is at 9.6%, if this number goes above 10% we will begin twice per week testing. Predictions do not look good.

As we look ahead to the holidays please keep in mind that social gatherings are not recommended. "This virus does not care it is a holiday". Especially, gatherings of friends and loved ones that live in different households. 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 for 14 days, and we will monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19. Many of our staff have said they are willing to do this if it means residents/tenants can see their family for the holiday. We caution this thought process...not only is there undue burden placed on staff that are stretched thin, there is also a depletion of our precious PPE resources. 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 of a large scale COVID-19 outbreak. At this time we have been able to contain the spread within our facility and hold on to hope that a vaccine is soon to come.

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 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. If you are an essential caregiver and come for a visit over the holidays you can bring a meal for your loved one, but please refrain from eating with them. We also encourage you to set up virtual visits now for popular days like Thanksgiving. You can also send cards/letters, make phone calls, or drop off a "care package". More ideas to follow.

Essential care visits continue. We love to see you and so do the residents! 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.**

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 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 *Lyn* in Activities at 320-833-5364 ext. 36.

We encourage everyone to "Like" us on Facebook. You will see on Facebook that life does go on at BLHCC. We are always trying to engage residents/tenants and promote quality of life to best extent possible. This past week the Veterans Meal was a huge success. We want to thank those that donated at The Broaster Cafe in Bird Island. 100% of Veterans meals were paid for, this was not expected, it was very heartwarming and appreciated.

BLHCC and Westview Estates
Staff/Family/Resident/Tenant COVID-19 Update
November 14, 2020

To our heroes, our warriors and our defenders we thank you for continuing to pull together and provide the best possible care to our residents. We need you! You are invaluable! To our residents/tenants there is no way to say how much we care about you and feel responsible for you. To our families....we miss you, we think of you and we thank you for entrusting us to care for your loved ones though this pandemic. The fight goes on.....

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing