

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

How fast things can change in this world of COVID-19. Yesterday we received our results from our facility wide testing done on 12/3/2020. With that came the news that we had 3 positive residents on one wing of long term care. We also identified a fourth resident with symptoms. That resident was tested with our rapid testing ability and results were positive. No new positive staff identified on the 12/3/20 testing. On 12/6/20 one staff reported symptoms prior to coming to work, they were tested with the rapid testing process, and determined to be positive. Today we also identified another staff that has not been in the building for 1 month with symptoms and is also positive. This means that currently we have 4 positive residents and 2 positive staff. We have completed contact tracing and have not identified any high risk exposures. At this time all of the positive cases are in one wing of the building and are all being cared for by specific "COVID Care Staff". These staff do not have contact with other staff or residents.

Yesterday we tested all residents on the wing with the positive residents and did not identify any unknown cases of COVID-19. Today we have tested all residents/tenants and staff with the rapid testing process and have 1 staff case of COVID-19. We continue to monitor all staff and residents closely and cannot emphasize enough to everyone the importance of using proper infection control practices to contain the spread of this virus. No staff should be eating anywhere in the building except in the employee breakroom. If you are outside in your cars you should be by yourself. Masks must stay in place during your shift and residents should also be wearing a mask when you are in their room, the only exception to this is during cares where a mask would not allow proper care to be completed, i.e. Washing up, feeding, brushing teeth, shaving, etc. All of you are essential and we need you, please follow these guidelines.

At this time the Buffalo Lake Healthcare Center is allowing essential caregivers to visit residents/tenants. **PLEASE** call ahead if you do not have an established visit time. We ask that you please use extreme caution and careful thought before coming for a visit. Even if you are feeling "congested" do not come. For many COVID-19 positive cases they have felt like they have, or are getting a "head cold" as their first symptoms. Residents and tenants are being asked to wear a mask for any visits from staff, family or essential caregivers. Staff, please assist residents to apply masks if they are receiving a visitor for any reason.

We have prepared for this.....our plan has been put into place. We pray that symptoms remain mild for the COVID positive cases and a higher level of care is not needed for anyone.

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing