

ALL STAFF/FAMILIES/RESIDENT ALERT:

We have received the final results of our facility wide testing from Monday 10/19/20. These were delayed in coming from the lab this week, as many of you have heard labs are seeing increased testing numbers and are trying to keep up with the demand. We are currently using Mayo Clinic lab for all of our testing. We have two ***new confirmed cases of COVID-19***. Both cases are staff members, no new resident/tenant cases. The staff have mild symptoms and are home in self quarantine spending some quality time with their families and being monitored daily by the healthcare worker monitoring team from the Minnesota Department of Health. We have no residents under precautions for symptoms of COVID-19 and all previous positive cases of COVID-19 have recovered and are doing well. We are extremely blessed to be able to say that no one suffered the severe symptoms of COVID-19, and even more blessed, to have experienced no loss of life related to this terrible illness.

We will continue to test all staff/residents and tenants on weekly basis due to our county prevalence rate, and current outbreak status. 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 under transmission based precautions pending the determination of a diagnosis for their symptoms.

Guidelines related to the Beauty Shop have changed. Our **Beauty Shop is open** and will remain open to all non COVID-19 positive residents/tenants. Anyone who shows any symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed in the Beauty Shop and will be placed on quarantine until they are confirmed COVID-19 negative.

We are also resuming socially distanced group activities and following all the recommendations related to infection control for these events. 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 in, 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. We also continue to broadcast live entertainment, worship, devotions and movies over our facility wide TV channel (991) for residents that do not wish to be with the group.

We are excited to announce that we will be resuming essential care visits. 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.

We deeply appreciate the sacrifices everyone has made to limit the impact of COVID-19 on our community and appreciate your patience. Our entire team looks forward to welcoming everyone back to BLHCC, when guidance allows. We continue to pray for health for all and healing for those affected.

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing