

ALL STAFF/FAMILIES/RESIDENT ALERT:

We have received the final results of our facility wide testing from Monday 11/2/20. We have confirmed **one positive staff** person this week with our routine testing. That staff is having mild symptoms and home on quarantine. We are awaiting confirmation on the other staff that tested positive with the rapid test. At this time we treat them as a presumed positive case. That staff is asymptomatic (no symptoms) and is home monitoring for symptoms. The one staff that tested positive last week with no symptoms has not developed any symptoms and continues to remain home during the quarantine period. We have one staff from earlier testing that continues to seek treatment from the effects of COVID-19 including the cough, shortness of breath and fatigue. Prayers continue for a full recovery.

The truly amazing news in all of this is that we have **no positive resident/tenant cases** again this week! Great job with PPE everyone!! We have been fighting this virus for eight months now and everyone is very tired, last week we described it as the snow storm that just does not end. Yet, staff continue to put every effort forward to pick up extra hours and provide the best possible care to our residents. Staff you are amazing! We cannot give up! We cannot let our guard down! We cannot think, "Our staff have recovered well, residents have recovered, we're ok." WE ARE NOT OK.....10 deaths have occurred in Renville County from COVID-19. Most COVID-19 transmission has been linked to the community and the activities we do outside of work. Please keep up with the best practices to fight this virus. We are blessed to have such a caring and dedicated team! Stay Safe.....Mask up and social distance.

We will continue to test all staff/residents and tenants on weekly basis as we are still in outbreak testing. We continue to be in contact with our health department and weekly updates on changes are ongoing. We train our staff continually, even fire drills now contain additional training on PPE use. We have also joined a collaborative called Project ECHO to meet with other facilities and share best practices in the management of COVID-19, we are excited to see what this has to offer.

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.**

Indoor visits remain on hold. We have a plan to begin these visits once we are all COVID-19 negative for 2 consecutive weeks. Window visits continue to be encouraged but we know the weather will be against us again. If you wish to schedule a video visit we are setting up a Sign Up Genius on our website www.blhcc.org for Zoom calls where the activity department can 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, 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. With Veteran's Day next week our Veterans will enjoy a special meal being catered in from a local restaurant. We encourage you to post your pictures thanking our Veterans for us to share with them. They will receive a special Veterans mask and have a special thank you surprise entertainment....

The days are sometimes frustrating and the nights may be filled with worry or concern but as long as we all continue to work together we will make it! We are blessed to have the most amazing staff and residents at BLHCC!! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing