

ALL STAFF/FAMILIES/RESIDENT ALERT:

This week at the Buffalo Lake Healthcare Center began our new testing plan. We completed our first week of twice per week testing for all staff. On Monday November 30th we tested all staff with the rapid testing process and had no new cases of COVID-19 identified. Yesterday, December 3rd we tested all staff and residents with the PCR tests that get sent to Mayo Clinic Labs. We will not have those results for a couple of days. At this time, we have one staff out due to a positive COVID-19 case, and 2 staff that remain on a 14 day quarantine due to high risk exposures.

We celebrate the no new cases of COVID-19 this week with caution. The community transmission levels of COVID-19 hit new records every day. Our current county positivity rate is the highest it has ever been, at 15.5%, making us a “red county”. This means we continue to test staff twice per week and residents on the weekly testing schedule.

This week our staff took time to prepare BLHCC for Christmas. They have set up trees in common areas, decorated nursing stations, decorated individual resident/tenant rooms and helped to create a positive atmosphere. We enjoyed hearing the Christmas carols being played on our in house channel while being broadcast from our entry way of the building. Residents/tenants continue to enjoy a variety of ways to play Bingo, relax with a manicure, participate in Religious Services, and spend 1:1 time doing Zoom calls with family members, coloring, crosswords, work searches, letters and cards. If you would like to send a card or message to any of our residents/tenants please send to:

Buffalo Lake Healthcare Center Attention: Christmas PO BOX 368 Buffalo Lake, MN 55314

Our staff also enjoyed their version of Human Bingo by getting to know co-workers better to complete their Bingo card for prizes and indulged in meat and cheese trays from the Employee Council.

There were also new guidelines put out by the Minnesota Department of Health related to travel. The State of Minnesota Emergency Executive Order 20-99 states that Minnesotans should refrain from non-essential travel out of state unless they meet certain exemptions. If non-essential travel does occur, they should enter a 14-day quarantine upon their return. This recommendation does not apply to individuals who must cross state or country borders for work, study, medical care, or personal safety and security. This means that any staff that travel out of the state for non-essential reasons will be required to enter a 14 day quarantine. ***This will not fall under the COVID pay policy for illness as this was travel for a non-essential reasons.*** This order went into effect on November 20th and remains in place until December 18, 2020.

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. We are trying to limit the number of people in our building to keep our residents as safe and healthy as possible. 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 want to take this as an opportunity to thank everyone!! From our resident/tenant families that have sacrificed time and physical connections, to our residents/tenants for your unending resilience and desire to protect each other, your families, and the staff. A special thank you to our staff for the countless hours and dedication you have shown to our residents/tenants and your co-workers. Most of all we thank our own families that have allowed us to do what we were put here to do: to Care..... Please take a moment enjoy this video. (You may have to skip an ad to see the video).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkDNp4ATCso>

Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing