

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

We want to make everyone aware that we have identified two additional staff cases of COVID-19. Both staff were tested with the rapid antigen testing due to the symptoms they were experiencing. We are very proud of the staff for monitoring for any changes in their health and protecting the health of others around them by getting tested. We have also identified another positive resident case of COVID-19.

This means that currently we have 5 positive residents and 4 positive staff. All of the residents and staff are doing well. We would consider the symptoms we are seeing as mild at this time, and pray that is how things continue. We have completed contact tracing related to our positive cases and have identified **two high risk exposures** of a staff. ***STAFF anytime you are outside of work or near anyone outside of your direct living situation you need to wear a mask.*** We need all of you all! At this time all of the positive resident cases being cared for by specific "COVID Care Staff". These staff do not have contact with other staff or residents. Thank you to our COVID Care Team for your dedication to these residents!

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.

As we look ahead, Activities has set up live entertainment that will come into our new entry and broadcast over the TV channels to resident/tenant rooms. The residents/tenants really enjoy this. We will also be having our resident Christmas Party Day on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Activity staff will go room to room with gifts, entertainment and community Christmas Cards that have been sent.

Our Activity Department has also set up a Sign Up Genius to sign up for video calls. To sign up go to our website [www.blhcc.org](http://www.blhcc.org) or, contact Lyn, or Activities, at 320-833-5364 ext. 36. There are specific staff set up to assist residents/tenants with this process. Many of the residents/tenants are enjoying these visits. If there is a special event that you would like to do a video visit with a resident/tenant you may contact Activities and they will set this up with you. With the Holidays quickly approaching we are not expecting there to be a change in status compared to Thanksgiving. We will once again be asking that residents do not leave the building. Anyone who does go out is putting everyone else at increased risk and will need to be placed in a 14 day quarantine upon return. Please sign up now to get your desired time for a video visit on Christmas.

A safe and effective vaccine is on the way. We know that we will be working with CVS Pharmacy to vaccinate all of our residents/tenants and staff. This will be a two-step injection. The vaccine is 95% effective against COVID-19 with 4-10% of those receiving the vaccine having mild reactions (muscle soreness and fatigue are the most common). The vaccine is our only chance to fight this awful virus and we will need at least 80% of the population to receive the vaccine to be effective. If you are researching information about the vaccine please be sure you are looking at credible sources. Do not depend on social media for your information. The Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC are recommended credible sites for information. In the weeks ahead we will be reaching out to obtain consent for administering the vaccine. Please do your research. We are all in this together!

"Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."- Marie Curie

Sincerely,

Mark Rust Administrator

Kendra Hiles Director of Nursing