

## 5/1/20 Update

Residents/Family/Friends,

#1- We continue to have no known cases of Covid-19 at the facility!

#2- As Governor DeWine begins to SLOWLY open businesses in Ohio, we too are happy to report some easing of restrictions! Beginning on Thursday, we opened the porch and courtyard areas from 9AM - 4 PM to the residents. Initially we will be opening these areas up by resident floor and access will alternate each day of the week. This will continue to provide some isolation by floor and exposure to non-clinical staff members. Areas not currently open to residents will be marked off with caution tape. While traveling to the courtyard/porch and enjoying these spaces we continue to ask that residents be mindful of their proximity to others with social distancing, utilizing PPE such as masks as tolerated and limiting their time to 30 minutes in each area, allowing everyone to have some fresh air and hopefully sunshine. Appropriately spaced resting areas will be marked on the floor in the porch/courtyard and we ask that residents aim for these areas for everyone's wellbeing. The current visitation policies remain in place as Governor DeWine has made no announcements pertaining to this topic to date.

Areas on the first floor that are **NOT** currently open to the residents are:

- Front desk receptionist
- Any office on 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- Therapy/Gym
- Activity Areas
- Hair Salon
- Main dining room for meal service

#3: Box meals will continue on the weekends only for dinner. We are making some changes and are enhancing the process to hopefully take in the comments and suggestions we heard from the residents and staff last weekend:

- The resident should be involved in their menu selection to be assured that what they receive is their personal choice (please ask for assistance if needed)
- A limited alternative cart will be available in lieu of the wrong selection being delivered, or someone did not have the correct meal listed/selected. The cart will contain alternatives such as a selection of sandwiches.

#4- Telemedicine appointments are going well as all parts of the healthcare system gain more experience with this process. In collaboration with community specialists, we will transition appointments back to in-person format when deemed medically appropriate.

#5- In the next few weeks we are required to have the air filters changed throughout the building. A minimal number of contractors will be granted permission into the facility to complete this task. The contractors will be assessed prior to entering the facility and will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment.

#6: The number of family/friends participating in our video session program continues to grow. We encourage everyone to reach out if they are interested in scheduling a session and ask that you pass along to any family/friends we may not have contact information for about this program.

Friendly reminder: If we are delayed in contacting you for a scheduled appointment or are unable to contact you at all, typically this is related to your loved one receiving personal care. We will try to contact you to reschedule for later in the day however this is not always possible.

#7: Friendly reminder regarding care packages: A care package may be in the drop-off bin for 24 hours before we have the opportunity to deliver it. As a result, please do not put perishable items into these packages. So far, the most common items we are having to throw away are salsas and various chip dips that require refrigeration. We also request that you refrain from asking any staff member other than Megan and Rob to grab a package from the bin and delivering it as these individuals may not be aware of the food safety and clothing labeling policies in place.

#8: We have added a page to our website where all notices related to COVID-19 communications are available for easy referencing. <https://www.beechwoodhome.com/covid19>.

After all of the April showers, wishing you lots of May flowers!

As always if you have any questions/comments/concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Scot Harmon (Administrator) and/or Patricia Clark (CEO).

**Heather Hefren MSW, LSW**  
Social Services/Admission Coordinator  
Director of Social Services

**M:** 513-702-8301

**F:** 513-533-6413

**E:** [HHefren@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:HHefren@beechwoodhome.com)

5/8/20 Update

Residents/Family/Friends,

#1- We continue to have no known cases of COVID-19 at the facility!

#2- For the residents that The Beechwood Home is the Rep-Payee with Social Security for, stimulus checks have started to trickle in. Please be aware that we have no way of knowing when these funds will be received on behalf of a resident. Additionally, the stimulus checks that are being distributed by paper check could take up to four months to arrive.

After a check arrives for a Resident, our Finance Department will deposit the funds into their Resident Trust Account at the facility. This money is to be spent by the Resident in a manner that they choose. No part of these monies will be calculated into the Patient Liability assigned by Hamilton County Job and Family Services and directed to the facility.

Please be aware that a majority of those residing at the facility utilize Ohio Medicaid as their primary insurance for Long Term Care. As a result, it is important to recognize that in order to maintain eligibility for this program staying below the \$2,000 resource limit is critical. For many, when the stimulus check arrives, it will put them over the allowable threshold. We encourage everyone to be mindful of this situation and spend down the monies ASAP.

Accounts at the facility are monitored monthly and when an account surpasses \$1,700 an over resource warning letter is distributed. If/when you receive this letter, please act as potentially losing the Ohio Medicaid Benefit would not be in the best interest of those who reside here.

#3- Various research organizations are researching the viability of COVID-19 on various surfaces. During this time, we have decided to keep our care package/laundry drop off program in place with no changes except for one request. We ask that anyone who is experiencing sign/symptoms of respiratory illness or is just feeling a little off in general, refrain from dropping off any packages until they have been symptom free for 72 hours to reduce the potential for transmissions of the virus. We appreciate in advance your assistance with continuing to do all that is possible to keep the facility COVID-19 free.

#4- Activities has been conducting routine grocery shopping trips to help Residents obtain desired personal/grocery items during these challenging times. A great aspect of this service is that we can obtain items that family/friends are not able to drop off such as temperature sensitive food items.

If a family member/friend would like to give a resident an item for a special occasion that does not meet our current drop off criteria, please contact Heather to determine if we can help obtain this item on your behalf during one of these trips.

#5- On Tuesday, bartenders Megan and Rob served up margaritas in celebration of Cinco de Mayo which was enjoyed by many.



#6- Mother nature has been kind and provided many sunny days since we opened the porch and courtyard last week.

#7- Keeping Cincy Close contributor Buz who has been sending us daily letters (as mentioned in the update on 4/17/20) and read over the speaker system by Patti each morning has been featured in the local news and the facility was mentioned too.

<https://highlandcountypress.com/Content/In-The-News/Social/Article/Keeping-Cincy-Close-UC-Clermont-instructor-leads-letter-writing-campaign-to-local-nursing-homes/2/74/57169>

Wishing everyone a happy socially distanced Mother's Day this weekend.

As always if you have any questions/comments/concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Scot Harmon (Administrator) [sharmon@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:sharmon@beechwoodhome.com) and/or Patricia Clark (CEO) [pclark@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:pclark@beechwoodhome.com).

Sincerely,

Scot Harmon,  
Administrator

Patricia A. Clark,  
DM, CEO, Administrator

## 5/15/20 Update

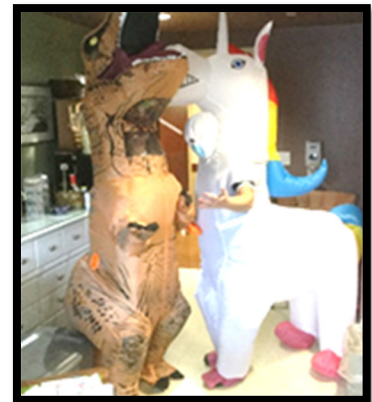
Residents/Family/Friends,

1) We continue to have no known cases of COVID-19!

2) Initially enrollment in our Emergency Communication Platform was not required, however in order to meet the recently established regulatory reporting guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 we request that at least one family member/friend complete enrollment to this platform for each resident. Ideally this would be the Responsible Party. If you are currently receiving text updates, you are already enrolled in the emergency communication platform. Sometime next week, the Responsible Party/POA will be directly contacted for residents who do not have someone on record enrolled in the emergency communication platform. Everyone is welcome to enroll in the Emergency Communication Platform though. **Simply text ezbwh to 484-848.**

3) For the last month, The Beechwood Home has conducted a weekly facility wide riddle competition. While Patti reads riddles over the intercom, Geraldine manages the hotline waiting for the first caller (Residents/Staff) to submit their guess which is read aloud until there is a winner. It has been a fun adventure to identify the riddle experts amongst us.

4) On Tuesday, Mary and Chelsea from Housekeeping lifted the spirits of all by roaming the halls of the facility dressed up as tyrannosaurus rex and a unicorn. Another fun example of how we are all working together to keep things interesting during these atypical times.



5) We would like to announce the retirement of 1<sup>st</sup> floor Receptionist Carolyn Rainwater. Carolyn has been with The Beechwood Home for 19 years and will be greatly missed. Going forward please contact Geraldine Scott at 513-321-9294/ [gscott@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:gscott@beechwoodhome.com) regarding management of Resident Trust Accounts and any task that Carolyn may have been doing for a resident.

As always if you have any questions/comments/concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Scot Harmon (Administrator) and/or Patricia Clark (CEO).

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Sincerely,

Scot Harmon,  
Administrator

Patricia A. Clark,  
DM, CEO, Administrator



**UPDATE 5/22/20**

Residents/Family/Friends,

- 1) We continue to have no known cases of COVID-19!
- 2) For those on isolation precautions, we have added a couple additional precautions. Only staff members from the nursing department and Housekeeping will be entering the room during the 14-day period. If your family members is participating in our video chat program, please allow greater flexibility in the time window that the call is initiated. In an attempt to conserve PPE, a representative from Nursing if their time and if the staffing allows will be initiating the video chat when they are in the room. If your family member is part of our family laundry program, it will be suspended during the 14-day period. If clothing has labels adhered, we can perform the laundry if requested during this period. Otherwise, the laundry will remain in the hamper. A special pickup day can be arranged when the window expires.

As always if you have any questions/comments/concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Scot Harmon (Administrator) [sharmon@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:sharmon@beechwoodhome.com) and/or Patricia Clark (CEO) [pclark@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:pclark@beechwoodhome.com).

Sincerely,

Scot Harmon,  
Administrator

Patricia A. Clark,  
DM, CEO, Administrator



### Update 5/29/20

Residents/Family/Friends,

- 1) We continue to have no known cases of Covid-19!
- 2) Dr. Acton (Director of the Ohio Department of Health) signed an order on 5/27/20 regarding the initiation of Covid-19 testing for all staff of Long-Term Care Facilities. Congregate Care Unified Response Teams is the umbrella term for the multiple agencies which will be involved in this new directive. The Facility will be contacted by a Contact Administrator shortly before the National Guard arrives to administer the testing within the facility. The results will be communicated to the facility by the Contact Administrator. It appears initially this program will target staff however it does indicate that it could strategically test Residents as they deem appropriate.
- 3) The facility must contact residents and their representatives by 5:00 PM the next calendar day following the occurrence of a single confirmed Covid-19 infection of a resident or staff member **OR** of three or more residents or staff members with new onset of respiratory symptoms that occurred within 72 hours of each other.

The facility would communicate information regarding this matter to Residents via a letter distributed to everyone on paper. The facility would communicate information regarding this matter to Representatives through our Emergency Communication Platform (EZ texting). If you are currently receiving weekly updates via text, you are already enrolled. If you would like to enroll you can text 484848 the message ezbwh to self-enroll. Alternatively, I have identified a way to enroll on my side of the platform. Please send Heather an email or text, requesting facility-enrollment.

As a result of the mandatory testing program, we encourage everyone not to be surprised if this process results in positive Covid-19 cases linked to BWH as this information can be viewed in a positive perspective. It has been well documented that many people positive for Covid-19 are asymptomatic, meaning they appear and feel perfectly health. The concern here is that these individuals can spread the virus without anyone knowing it and the screening policies in place to protect LTC facilities have always had this vulnerability as they are unable to detect this type of positive case. Having the opportunity to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 and prevent them from entering the facility until they are no longer positive for the virus, is a major leap forward to protecting everyone.

- 4) This week we were fortunate to receive another flower donation. Potted daisy plants were distributed throughout the facility and the sight of flowers always seem to make people smile.
- 5) An advisory committee in Ohio has begun to discuss future visitation guidelines for congregate care facilities. To date, there have been no changes to the visitation policy that has been in effect since March 11, 2020.

Please be aware that the Advisory Committee may produce different recommendations for Assisting Living Facilities, Long Term Care Facilities and/or Intermediate Care Facilities. When watching the news, please be mindful of the type of facility The Beechwood Home is. We will communicate visitation policy changes to everyone as they become available pertaining to Long Term Care Facilities.



As always if you have any questions/comments/concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Scot Harmon (Administrator) [sharmon@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:sharmon@beechwoodhome.com) and/or Patricia Clark (CEO) [pclark@beechwoodhome.com](mailto:pclark@beechwoodhome.com).

Sincerely,

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