



July 10, 2020 Letter 1

Dear Residents/Family/Friends/Staff,

Summary

While unfortunate but not unexpected, additional staff have tested positive for Covid-19. We are reporting two additional staff members who have tested positive. This brings our total active cases to three. The facility has had a total of three confirmed Covid-19 tests associated with the facility to date. All three staff members were immediately removed from the schedule upon notification to minimize exposure risk to other Residents/Staff and will remain on medical leave until a physician certifies they are safe to return to work. **On a positive note**, these latest two cases were not associated with the Round 1 testing performed this week. They were community tests performed prior to the initiation of our action plan and these individuals have not worked any shifts at the facility prior to the initiation of our action plan. **As a result, completion of Round 2 testing next week should identify any potential positive cases which could have been associated with the three active staff positive cases.** These additional cases sadden us, and our hearts go out to those affected. We have notified our local and state departments of health and will continue to work with them to monitor our active cases.

Action Plan.

Our action plan remains the same due to the cases occurring within a close time period and the staff members not entering the building since initiation of our action plan this week. Round 1 testing was completed this week. As of this writing, we have received 97% of the Resident results, all of which were negative. Round 2 testing will begin next week. Residents will have Round 2 swabs taken on Monday. Staff will have Round 2 swabs taken on Tuesday. Any subsequent positive test results will be communicated.

We are taking steps to reduce the spread of infection.

In addition to the steps outlined in the letter distributed earlier this week, we have increased our Covid-19 medical assessment of all Residents.

We will not be sharing details publicly about positive tests.

Rest assured, if we need to contact a family member with updates about a specific resident, we will reach out directly. But, also, please note that out of respect to those affected and their families and, in accordance with privacy laws, we will not be sharing any details regarding our positive cases publicly.

Community Status Update:

Hamilton County has been added to the watch list on the new **Ohio Public Health Advisory System**. This means that the county is on the verge of turning purple which indicates *“Level 4 Public Emergency: severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services”*. We anticipate that the increase in cases related to the facility is directly correlated to the circumstances our surrounding area is experiencing.

Contact us with questions.

We know that this pandemic is particularly challenging for you. We empathize with your feelings of separation and vulnerability, and we want to thank you for your ongoing support and trust. If you have any questions about COVID-19 or the steps that we are taking to protect our residents, please contact Scot Harmon, Administrator, at 513-842-0774, sharmon@beechwoodhome.com.

Sincerely,
Scot Harmon,
Administrator

Patricia A. Clark, DM
CEO, Administrator



7/10/20 Weekly Update

July 10, 2020 Letter 2

Residents/Family/Friends/Staff,

Status of Hamilton County: Last week, Governor DeWine in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health launched the *Ohio Public Health Advisory System*. It includes a map of all Ohio counties and categories them with a color-coded system based upon data pertaining to the status of community spread. This week, Hamilton County has been added to the watch list which means that the county is on the verge of turning purple which indicates “*Level 4 Public Emergency: severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services*”. We anticipate that the increase in cases related to the facility is directly correlated to the circumstances our surrounding area is experiencing. Here is a link to this resource for your personal use. <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>

Quarantine Procedure: We have updated our procedure to limit the amount of time a Resident is isolated to their room after a community outing. Upon return, they will enter a quarantine and on day 5 a Covid-19 test will be swabbed. If the result is negative the quarantine will end, which will hopefully result in a 50% reduction in quarantine duration.

Resident Mail: For Residents who are unable to manage their personal mail, please let us know if you would like the mail set aside for pickup going forward.

Outdoor Visitation Guidance: The Fourth Amended Director’s Order may permit residents to have visitors in an outdoor setting in accordance with the guidelines and exceptions set forth below. The information below contains portions of the order which we feel are most important for everyone to be aware of.

1. Homes should consider all of the following as part of developing a comprehensive plan to commence outdoor visitation: case status in surrounding community, case status in the facility, staffing levels, access to adequate testing for residents and staff, PPE inventory and availability and local hospital capacity
2. No contact visits
3. Visitation policy includes screening visitors and maintaining a log of contact information for each visit.
4. Visitors are REQUIRED to wear a mask and when possible, residents should also wear a mask. All visitors should be an age of such maturity as to facilitate social distancing as required by the Order.
5. Home needs to have adequate staff on site to screen visitors.
6. On-site visits must be scheduled with the Home. Visitors will be provided a time for the visit as well as the length of the visit.
7. Contingency plans in place for adverse weather. Shade provided for residents.
8. All visitors shall be over the age of two.
9. No more than three visitors shall be permitted per resident per visit.

Our plan: Everyone involved in the outdoor visitation program needs to be aware that all aspects of this program are subject to change. The order specifically indicates that it is the responsibility of the Home to assess a variety of changing factors and assess if the current program is appropriate for the status of the pandemic in our area.

1. We hope to begin outdoor visitation on July 20th.
2. Sessions are planned to be available Monday- Friday, following the outdoor access schedule to the 1st floor. Specific data pertaining to the sessions available will be communicated on Monday for sessions starting the week of July 20th. Scheduling will initially be completed in one-week intervals. Scheduling will open up on the

Monday prior to the following week. Family/friends can email/text Heather with a session preference and appointments will be confirmed pending availability. Scheduling will be confirmed based upon the day/time the request was received. We anticipate having the ability to schedule sessions weekly (if desired) based upon input from family/friends, however this is subject to change if demand is observed to exceed our visitation capacity.

3. If a resident is on isolation precautions, they are not permitted to participate in outdoor visitation program.
4. The sessions will last approximately 40-minutes.
5. A plexiglass barrier will be between the parties as an infection control measure.
6. The facility will be providing seating for family/friends to use however please feel free to bring their own chair.
7. A box of gloves and cleaning supplies will be available for family/friends to use to help make their experience as comfortable as possible.
8. Visitors will be required to complete entry into the logbook in the event contact tracing by the health department is needed.
9. A facility staff member will perform the temperature screenings.
10. Visits will occur between an exterior door opening. Residents will be inside within air conditioning. Family will be outside on the opposite side of the plexiglass barrier underneath a shade covering device provided by the facility.
11. Passing of objects around the plexiglass barrier between the parties is not encouraged.
12. In the event of extreme weather, sessions for the day will be cancelled. Family/friends would be notified by phone/text.
13. No pets will be permitted to be in attendance during a session.
14. If a Resident/Family/Friend are observed to violate any aspect of this program which could result in a negative health outcome for those who reside here, the opportunity to participate in the outdoor visitation program may be terminated.
15. If a scheduled outdoor visitation session needs to be cancelled by a family/friend, we request that you let us know ASAP so that we can inform your loved one in addition to potentially scheduling another family/friend in that vacant spot.

Friendly Reminder: While texting and email are our primary forms of communication with everyone, we acknowledge it can be difficult to reference prior notices in these formats. Located on our website is an archive containing all Covid-19 related notices that has been distributed. <https://www.beechwoodhome.com/covid19>

Sincerely,

Scot Harmon,
Administrator

Patricia A. Clark, DM
CEO, Administrator