



April 23rd Update

Residents/Family/Friends/Staff,

Covid-19 Status: We have had no known positive resident cases of COVID-19!

PSA: We strongly encourage everyone to read the article below about a nursing home in KY which resulted in 18 fully vaccinated residents contracting covid-19. Vaccination is a significant tool in the fight against Covid-19 however we also want to stress that no vaccine ever created protects someone from illness 100%. The Ohio Department of Health now allows visitors to enter the facility and the vaccination status of these individuals is unknown. While not required, we strongly encourage anyone who visits the facility to get vaccinated as you may be engaging with a resident in a way that does not adhere to best practices regarding infection control. We acknowledge that there are staff members who have declined the vaccine while taking care of your loved ones however these individuals are mandated to be covid tested twice a week and any positive cases are hopefully caught before it can spread within the facility. We also have monthly vaccine clinics and hope that our staff vaccination rate continues to improve each month.

<https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article250862594.html>

Managing Risk: We acknowledge covid fatigue is an emotion felt by many however a majority of Ohioans are still not fully vaccinated. For those that are fully vaccinated, it easily can be interpreted as a liberating experience resulting in a life that returns to normal however this is not recommended by medical experts, especially as the highly infectious variant B.1.1.7 is currently circulating in our community. Local hospitals in Cincinnati are experiencing a surge in covid-related admissions. In Europe the spread of B.1.1.7 is being characterized as an epidemic within a pandemic. The Ohio Department of Health continues to have restrictions stricter for nursing homes than is recommended by the CDC for the general public because congregate care settings are especially prone to a covid-19 outbreak due to the density of individuals. The Emergency Planning Committee simply requests that everyone ask themselves "is this worth the exposure?" as they go about their lives.

Mask Use Within the Facility:

- Residents are required to wear a mask while attending a facility-sponsored group activity.
- Visitors are required to wear a mask at all times while in the facility.
- Staff are required to wear a mask at all times in the facility unless they are working in a private office or eating while 6' apart from anyone.
- Residents are strongly encouraged to wear a mask while out of their room.

Help Keep Us Covid Free: If you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 or an upper respiratory infection, please stay away from the facility.

Scheduled In-Room Visitation Please e-mail melder@beechwoodhome.com to request a visitation opportunity.

As always if you have any questions/comments/concerns please contact me, Scot Harmon (Administrator) or Patricia Clark (CEO).

Heather Hefren MSW, LSW

Director of Social Services

M: 513-702-8301