

Residents/Family/Friends/Staff,

**Voluntary FREE Covid Testing:** We strongly encourage all Residents and Visitors to take advantage of this amazing opportunity to routinely know your covid status. All staff are tested at least weekly related to proactive measures the facility has implemented. Visitors currently pose the biggest risk to our resident's wellbeing, as the general public is not routinely tested for covid, and offering FREE testing is an additional layer of protection we want to provide our Beechwood community.

- Visitors will be offered a voluntary FREE rapid covid test Monday – Friday (9 AM to 2:00 PM prior to entry) if they wish to ensure they are negative at the time of their visit. Please call 321-9294 ext 105 (Tim W) a couple minutes before arrival and we will meet you outside with a rapid test which takes 15 minutes for the results to be available. If you plan to visit over the weekend, you are welcome to stop by on Friday and get tested. Please also contact Tim to discuss covid testing outside of these hours for unique circumstances.
- If coming to the facility for a free rapid test is not convenient for you, the same rapid test we use (**BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Self Test**) is available from Amazon, Walmart and CVS (for example). The cost currently is ~\$10/test. If you have concerns about how the test is performed, this video from the manufacturer explains how the test is works step by step. The nasal swab barely goes into your nose, so zero concern about brain tickles 😊  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baQQfoX-JXo>
- Residents will be offered voluntary covid tests on a routine basis.



**Developing Story:** Our Ethic's Committee met this week to discuss a covid vaccine mandate for employees and we were very fortunate to have an expert in the field of Covid join our conversation from UC/VA in addition to consulting with our legal team. As you can imagine this is a very complex topic frankly nobody wants to have. Due to proposed legislation in Ohio which if passed would ban vaccine mandates, our committee has elected to postpone a decision at this time and will continue to analyze industry recommendations and legal developments. We ask for everyone's' patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

**Hamilton County's positivity rate:** has **increased** to 6.1%. This is an increase of 1.4%. Clarification was made regarding visitation. Visitation under the current order will NOT be suspended if the positivity rate surpasses 10% due to our Resident vaccinated rate being greater than 70%. I am sure this is welcome news to everyone as the positivity rate continues to climb. With that being said, we encourage everyone to take a moment and consider your exposure risk as you go about your daily life decisions, especially if visiting the facility is part of your routine. With the highly transmissible delta variant, the decisions you make impact those around you. We highly recommend knowing your testing status before coming to the facility to keep our community as safe as possible.

**Covid-19 Status:** We have had no known positive resident cases of COVID-19. We encourage Residents to resume wearing facial coverings indoors as recommended by the CDC due to the delta variant regardless of vaccination status.

**Help Keep Us Covid Free:** Due to the more transmissible delta variant, we continue to encourage everyone get a Covid-19 vaccine to protect against the worst symptoms of Covid-19. If you are experiencing any symptoms of an upper respiratory infection, please stay away from the facility as the symptoms for covid-19 continue to evolve.

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