

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This newsletter is being sent to responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending newsletters to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood Apartment tenants. Responsible parties can direct other family members and friends to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com to read current and previous newsletters. If there is a topic you would like discussed in the newsletter, please contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



On March 10th the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services revised the guidance for nursing home visitation related to COVID-19. I did mention this in last week's newsletter. This week I have some very specific guidelines that the Baldwin Care Center has developed for visiting in all three settings on the campus. I have posted the new Visitation policy on the Baldwin Care Center website. I encourage all family members to read the policy. The policy was also sent to all family members listed as the primary contacts for the Baldwin Care Center, Birch Haven Assisted Living

and Birchwood Apartments. Copies were also made available to tenants and residents. I would like to highlight the major points of the new guidelines for visitation. They are as follows:

- *Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living visiting hours will be from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. daily. Weekend visits in Birch Haven should be prescheduled with a manager by calling Monday – Friday.
- *Birchwood Apartments visiting hours are from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2:30 – 6 p.m. daily.
- *Visitors should come to the main entrance of the Baldwin Care Center, Birch Haven Assisted Living or Birchwood Apartments to be screened.
- *A staff member will be taking temperatures and completing COVID-19 screenings. Visitors may not enter unless they have been screened!
- *Visitors must follow the Core Principles of Infection Control, which they will receive when they come in. This includes performing hand hygiene AND use of face mask AND practicing social distancing. If guidelines are not followed, the visitor may be asked to leave.
- *Visitors may come during any of the listed visiting times, but may be asked to wait or return if at a different time if there are too many people in the building. Each building will follow their specific guidelines for the maximum number of visitors at one time.
- *Suggested length of visits is one hour.
- *No more than two visitors may visit a resident at one time. If one of the visitors is a child, they must be able to wear a mask during the entire visit.
- *Visits will occur in the resident's or tenant's room or apartment.
- *Visitors should stay in the room for the entire visit.
- *Visitors should not use the public restroom. Please use the resident's bathroom.
- *Movement will be limited in each facility. Visitors must go directly to the room and exit the same way when leaving.
- *Visitors may not interact with other residents or staff other than those they are scheduled to visit.
- *If a resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with the visitor while wearing a well-fitting mask.
- *Visitation will be cancelled if an outbreak occurs (one resident or staff case).

I appreciate everyone's patience during this new process. We may need to make some adjustments in the future dependent upon how many people are visiting. Understand that this is a difficult transition for the staff here. We have been told previously by regulators to keep residents away from family members. This new guidance is a bit scary as there are residents who have not been vaccinated who will have contact with family members who have not been vaccinated. The Medical Director, Dr. Kathleen Findlay and the staff of Baldwin Care Center believe we have developed a safe and responsible plan for visitation. I ask every family member's cooperation in following the guidance that is currently in place for the Baldwin Care Center campus. I encourage everyone to read the policies and procedures regarding visitation at the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com. If you have questions about

the visitation policy, please contact Jenell Neidermyer in the Birchwood Apartments and either Kayla Ridley or Heidi Fink in Birch Haven Assisted Living. You can contact me with questions about visitation in the Baldwin Care Center.

I have some very good news about the positivity rate in the county and state. As of Monday, there are no counties in the State that have a positivity rate greater than 10%. The majority of counties have a positivity rate that is less than 5%, with only a handful of counties that have a rate between 5-10%. With the decrease in the positivity rate, the testing requirements have decreased also. The State of Wisconsin indicates that facilities can reduce their testing to every other week for staff if the county rate is less than 5%. After our outbreak testing is completed after next week, we will go to testing every other week. Both Birch Haven and Birchwood Apartments are testing staff every other week. Residents do not need to be tested unless there is an outbreak or they have symptoms.

Oh so
LUCKY
to have
you!

All staff on the campus were treated to dilly bars in honor of St. Patrick's Day. We are so LUCKY to have them! This past year has been a difficult one. The entire staff who work on the campus have done an amazing job through all of the changes and challenges. I also want to thank everyone in the community and every family member who assisted us in any way during the last year. You are appreciated!

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

