



October 4, 2022

Dear Family Members/Responsible Parties:

We continue to reach out to all of the families/responsible parties in regards to the new bivalent booster dose, and appreciate that most of you have responded and have consented for the new Covid bivalent booster dose vaccine. We will administer this new booster dose to residents in the East Village on Wednesday, 10/5 and the West Village on Thursday, 10/6. Thank you again!

I continue to receive many questions asking why family members still have to test, wear masks, and screen. These are appropriate questions, especially in light of the recent updates to both the CDC and CMS guidelines. However, we are still obligated to adhere to the current NY State DOH guidelines which have not been update accordingly. I participated in a conference call earlier today in which we reiterated these questions to the DOH, but we continue to await a response. I appreciate the frustration and encourage you to reach out to your State officials as well to see if the DOH can complete their review and update the guidance.

I want to provide a brief COVID update for everyone at this time. We were notified today that a recent short term admission from 10/3 tested positive for COVID. This resident had no other resident contact and was from the same hallway as the prior positive cases reported to you on 10/3. We completed our contact tracing and had already tested the remaining residents and staff from the rehab household in the same period as this new case; therefore, no further testing was required at this time but follow-up surveillance testing will continue as previously outlined. Visitation is not affected at this time, and I hope that you continue to enjoy both indoor & outdoor visitation as the weather is forecasted to be warmer for the weekend.

Please remember that we have compiled the facility visitation guidelines into a single reference sheet that is available at the screening tables and on our website. Our vaccine clinics continue on Thursdays for new admissions and staff, and we continue to maintain strong overall vaccination numbers that far exceed state and national averages. The current facility rates are as follows:

Beechwood Homes Vaccination Rates						
			Beechwood		New York State Avg	National Average
RESIDENTS	Completed Primary Vaccine Series		95.8%		90.2%	87.2%
	Up-to-Date with Vaccinations		67.5%		58.1%	55.7%
STAFF	Completed Primary Vaccine Series		99.1%		98.9%	86.9%
	Up-to-Date with Vaccinations		68.9%		52.3%	42.0%

The facility has a good supply of at-home test kits available for visitors as needed, and just request at the reception/screening tables. Again, I understand the frustrations with the continued protocols that have to be followed in nursing homes but no place else in NY State, and look forward to our elected officials and the DOH updating the protocols to be consistent with the remainder of society. Regardless, it is important for all of us to remain vigilant in following the infection control precautions in place—utilization of the facility-provided surgical masks, maintaining proper social distance throughout your visit, and having proof of your negative test result. It is important for all of us to remain diligent with following these guidelines. In addition, if you are feeling sick or have any symptom associated with COVID then please stay home and do not come to the facility.

If you have any questions then, please call your social worker or myself. Thanks again for all that you do to keep our residents safe. Happy fall & Go Bills!

Best wishes,

Rich McCune
Administrator