



October 7, 2022

Dear Family Members/Responsible Parties:

We successfully vaccinated 176 residents the past two (2) days with the new bivalent Covid booster. Thank you to staff, residents, and families for your assistance! We continue to await an update from the DOH in regards to the recent changes in guidelines recommended by the CDC and issued by CMS. I appreciate the frustration that many of you have expressed due to the variance that the State DOH has maintained compared to CMS and the rest of NY State. I encourage you to reach out to your State officials to inquire as to why the DOH hasn't responded, and to request that they provide updated guidance.

I want to provide a brief COVID update for everyone at this time. In the past day and one half we had 6 additional new residents with positive COVID test results. Again, these residents were predominantly recently new admissions to the facility or from the household previously referenced on the 10/3 updates. In addition, we did have one (1) direct care staff from the short term household that had previously tested negative now tests positive. Upon review of our contact tracing, it was determined that the non-rehab residents most likely were infected by families who visited and then reported that they later had symptom(s) and tested positive. We continue with our ongoing surveillance of this household and the rehab household as was previously initiated and will complete follow-up testing of both staff and residents on 10/10. We have seen NO new cases anywhere else in the facility; therefore, visitation remains unaffected. Please continue to enjoy both indoor & outdoor visits as the weather permits.

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