



October 18, 2022

Dear Family Members/Responsible Parties:

I want to provide a brief COVID update for everyone at this time. We have had no new resident cases since the last update, but we did have one (1) non direct care staff test positive yesterday. They did not have any resident contact so no surveillance testing is required and there will be no change to visitation.

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. Face masks (source control) and social distancing remain NY State requirements, and I respectfully ask all to comply while visiting your loved ones. Our vaccine clinics continue on Thursdays for new admissions and staff, and we continue to maintain strong overall vaccination numbers. The DOH at the end of last week finally issued updated guidance in regards to the recent recommendation changes by the CDC and the updated CMS guidance changes. Unfortunately, the DOH updates don't change very much in regards to current guidelines and practices. Although face masks are optional in most public places outside of nursing homes, you still must wear them whenever you visit. In addition, you still must continue to show a negative Covid test and social distancing must be maintained. We continue to advocate that the DOH re-evaluate this guidance and consider following the CMS guidance, but the DOH has been unwilling to consider at this time. We continue to maintain strong overall vaccination numbers that far exceed both 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		96.4%		90.3%	86.7%
	Up-to-Date with Vaccinations		70.3%		59.2%	56.5%
STAFF	Completed Primary Vaccine Series		99.2%		98.9	86.5%
	Up-to-Date with Vaccinations		70.2%		52.1%	43.1%

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, Cathy Davis (RN Director of Nursing), or myself. Thanks again for all that you do to keep our residents safe.

Best wishes,

Rich McCune
Administrator