



January 9, 2023

Dear Family Members/Responsible Parties:

Happy New Year to all Residents, Family/Responsible Parties, and Staff! I hope that everyone has had a nice start to the New Year after the recent blizzard storm that took place over the Christmas weekend. I want to commend the Beechwood staff for their extraordinary work and efforts throughout the storm to insure the safety and welfare of the residents was maintained. We all made it through the experience and enjoyed our "extra" time with the residents as we together made the best of a very difficult situation. Moreover, we have little to complain about considering the unfortunate loss of lives and damage within our community due to the storm. Thanks again to all the staff who spent well over fifty (50) plus hours continuous at the facility—great work!

I want to provide a brief COVID update for everyone at this time. We had three (3) residents on our rehab unit who tested positive for Covid yesterday. Upon completion of contact tracing, it was determined that several family members of the residents also have Covid and completed visits on multiple days at the end of last week. We also had two (2) direct care staff who work on this unit test positive for the Covid virus as well. We did complete surveillance testing of the residents and staff on the unit and there were no other cases. The three (3) residents were relocated to our Covid unit to complete their quarantine period. All of the residents and family members of the effected unit were updated directly and we will complete follow-up surveillance testing per DOH guidelines.

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. I want to emphasize the importance of adhering to these guidelines. Recent DOH and CDC updates have identified the current variant of the Covid virus as XBB.1.5, and it has been determined to be five (5) times as contagious as any previous form of the virus. This current variant is the most transmissible form of Covid to date, but fortunately it is not as deadly and most people who have been vaccinated experience only mild symptoms at most. In addition, we have two (2) effective antiviral treatment options which have also been effective in treating the virus and assisting positive individuals with a speedy recovery.

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 unlike any other public location in our State, but ask for your compliance as we know the current variant is highly transmissible and the overall infection rates are climbing in WNY. Therefore, 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. I wish you all the best in 2023.

Best wishes,

Rich McCune  
Administrator