

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This weekly newsletter is sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents at the Baldwin Care Center. The newsletter is also distributed to residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Responsible parties should share information with other family members. They may also want to direct other family members and friends to the website at www.baldwincarecenter.com. Current and prior newsletters are posted there. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending the weekly newsletter to the responsible parties. The Birchwood Apartment Manager makes copies of the newsletter available to all tenants. If there is a topic that you would like discussed in the weekly newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



This week I would like to follow up on the outbreak testing that has occurred here for the past two weeks due to the positive test. The second round of testing went much better with the lab than the first round did. I am pleased to announce that the results came back from our second round of testing and all results were negative for both staff and residents. On Monday, October 12th the quarantine for all residents in the Woodland Heights Neighborhood was lifted and socially distanced dining and activities resumed. The residents and staff were very happy to be done with quarantine. Unfortunately, on Thursday, October 15th, a staff member tested positive during the routine weekly testing with a rapid antigen test. The employee was sent to her health care provider for a molecular test. The test result will be back in 3-5 days. This staff member provided direct care to our residents. This employee was using appropriate personal protective equipment while providing care to our residents. As a precautionary measure we placed all residents in quarantine throughout the whole building as the employee had worked in both neighborhoods in Baldwin Care Center. All residents and responsible parties were informed of the suspected case on Thursday, October 15th. We will be notifying residents and family members when we receive the results of the molecular testing from the lab. The facility will begin outbreak testing as soon as we receive testing kits and supplies. When we complete two rounds of negative testing (approximately two weeks), we will begin regular routine weekly testing again. This weekly routine testing is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) because the COVID positivity rate is between 5-10% in St. Croix County. If the positivity rate goes higher than 10% we will need to test twice a week. Up until this week, it was sometimes a challenge to get testing kits in a timely fashion. I received information from Accelerated Labs on October 13th that they are now able to provide the weekly testing supplies. The tests need to be ordered through the State of Wisconsin and then the order needs to be approved for delivery by the State of Wisconsin before the lab can ship them. This will help with the financial burden of paying for tests every other week. It continues to be a challenge to get all staff to test on a particular day. Obviously nursing staff work three round the clock shifts. Other departments work variations of both the day and PM shift. There are some staff that only work on weekends. If staff are unable or refuse to test for COVID-19, they are required to complete a form indicating why they refused to test or were unable to come for the testing. The state guidance indicates that we must maintain the proof as to why they didn't test. Obviously testing is a very important part of making certain that we are protecting our residents. Overall, we have had a great response to the weekly testing. Staff who work here are committed to the health and safety of the residents. Last week we also discussed future testing in the Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living. Both facilities completed the information necessary for the CLIA waiver. We are not certain how long it will take to process the lab waiver requests. When each facility receives an indication that they have been approved, they will then be sent test kits from the federal government. These tests will be the rapid antigen tests. The test results are almost immediate. After receipt of the tests, these facilities will then have the ability to determine if someone is positive in that setting. As of this time there is no guidance that requires regular routine testing in assisted living, as in the nursing facility.

**VISITOR
INFO**

I would like to discuss the future of visitation at the Baldwin Care Center. Unfortunately, due to the quarantine, we needed to cease outdoor visitation. We are now at a point that it is difficult to resume visitation outdoors. All settings on the campus have developed a process for indoor visitation. At this time the assisted living settings will begin indoor visitation in the vestibule area of their respective buildings. The Birchwood Apartment Manager has sent letters to family with the guidelines that need to be followed. Visits will occur in the vestibule of the main Birchwood Apartment entrance. The Apartment Manager is requesting that family members not enter the vestibule unless they have talked to a Birchwood employee before entering. We must ensure that screenings are completed and the area is cleaned thoroughly before visits begin. Birch Haven Assisted Living is beginning indoor visitation in their front door vestibule. Please contact Birch Haven Assisted Living if you are interested in visiting. Visits for Baldwin Care Center will be held in the East vestibule. Family members may park on the East end of the parking lot and then walk a short distance down the sidewalk to the door where the visits will occur. Unfortunately, due to the suspected positive case on October 16th, Baldwin Care Center will need to delay visitation until after all of the staff and residents have completed two rounds of negative testing. I will begin contacting family members when we are able to resume visitation. The guidelines will remain the same as they are for outdoor visits. We look forward to beginning visitation again in the Baldwin Care Center. If you have questions about visitation, please let me know.

During this stressful and uncertain time, staff have been impacted, particularly those that provide direct care to residents. They are feeling the stress related to keeping themselves, their families and the residents safe. We have posted a phone number and email that staff may access private mental health services. I want to thank everyone who has provided support to staff by making or sending goodies or cards, etc. We appreciate your support!



*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*



Lucille Sunde

