

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This news letter is being sent to responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. This newsletter is distributed to residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending newsletters to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood Apartment tenants. Responsible parties can direct other family members and friends to the Baldwin Care Center website at [www.baldwincarecenter.com](http://www.baldwincarecenter.com) to read current and previous newsletters. If there is a topic you would like discussed in the newsletter, please contact me via email at [elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com](mailto:elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com) or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



**U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Centers for Disease Control updated the public regarding vaccines. They defined the term “fully vaccinated”. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a two dose series of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson and Johnson’s Janssen vaccine. If it has been less than 2 weeks since your shot,

or if you still need a second dose, you are not fully protected. Keep taking prevention steps until you are fully vaccinated. If you have been fully vaccinated: \*You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask. \*You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. \*If you’ve been around someone who has COVID, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms. However, if you live in a group setting and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should stay away from others for 14 days and get tested. The guidance indicated that we should still wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart and avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. CDC suggests you should still avoid medium or large sized gatherings. (A number was not included as to what medium and large meant). You should delay domestic and international travel. You should continue to follow the guidance at your workplace. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 you should get tested and stay away from others. It seems that this guidance is intended for the general public. The CDC has indicated that the information is intended for “non-healthcare settings”. The State of Wisconsin has not given us further guidance at this time regarding visitation for fully vaccinated individuals.



On March 10<sup>th</sup>, CMS did release some updated guidance regarding visitation in nursing facilities. The indication is that facilities should allow responsible indoor visits for all residents. There are certain scenarios in which limitations on visits should be put in place for including: \*Unvaccinated residents, if the COVID-19 positivity rate is greater than 10% and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated \*Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions \*Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine. The guidance goes on to say that visitation can be conducted through various means based on a facility’s structure and resident’s needs, including in resident rooms, visitation spaces and outdoors. Given the ongoing risk of transmission of COVID-19 transmission, CMS continues to recommend facilities adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection control, including maintaining physical distancing and conducting visits outdoors when possible. We will be working with our Medical Director to develop a safe and responsible plan for visitation. I cannot indicate right now what that plan will be. I have also consulted the Regional Field Operations Director from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for guidance as to how to open for visitation in a safe, responsible manner. We are not able to just open the doors and let everyone come in. That would be irresponsible and dangerous. Our goal is to continue to keep residents here safe and at the same time trying to balance their emotional needs to visit their families. We should have a plan developed by next week that we will be communicating to all family members. **At this time, I ask that you not contact me or the other managers to set up in person visits.**

Baldwin Care Center had begun to allow expanded compassionate care visits. We are allowing one compassionate care in-room visit with one family member for each of our residents. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also beginning to allow expanded compassionate care visits. The indoor visitation policy that is being developed by the Medical Director and the staff will also apply to Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living.

 There are already dramatic decreases in COVID-19 cases amongst those who reside in skilled nursing facilities. During the week of February 21<sup>st</sup>, there were 1900 new COVID-19 cases in skilled nursing facilities across the country. When COVID-19 reached its peak in December in long term care facilities there were 33,000+ cases per week being reported. The vaccine has already had a hugely positive effect on the spread of COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities. The other dramatic result has been that hospitalizations are almost non-existent and so is the death rate amongst long term care residents.

We are hopeful that we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and an end to this deadly virus.

We have several thank yous for this week. I would again like to thank Dan and Tricia VanBrunt for making St. Patrick's Day cards for the residents. These members of the New Centerville Methodist Church have been devoted to spreading good cheer to the residents of the entire campus all throughout the pandemic. They are already planning something special for Easter for the residents. I would also like to thank the donor of the Girl Scout cookies. They were enjoyed by all! And thank you to Faye Luepke for the delicious bars for the Birch Haven staff.



*Eileen LaFavor,  
Administrator*

# Tattoo Fun!

