



Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This newsletter is being sent to responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending this newsletter 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 that 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.



I am very excited to be able to share the information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) titled "Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination". This new memo updates information regarding visitation, communal dining and activities.

The following infection prevention and control practices are recommended when planning for and allowing visitation in a nursing facility:

- \*Facilities should continue to promote and provide vaccination for all health care personnel (HCP).
- \*Facilities should continue to encourage vaccination among all new admissions.
- \*Facilities should maintain record of the vaccination status of residents and HCP.
- \*Before allowing indoor visitation, the risks associated with indoor visitation should be explained to residents and their visitors so they can make informed decisions about participation.
- \*Full vaccination for visitors is always preferred.
- \*Visitors should be screened and restricted from visiting, regardless of vaccination status if they have: current SARS-CoV-2 infection; symptoms of COVID-19; or prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days or have met criteria for quarantine.
- \*Visitors should be counseled about recommended infection prevention and control practices that should be used during the visit (source control (masks) or physical distancing).
- \*Visitors should wear a well-fitting cloth mask, facemask or respirator for source control, except as described in the scenarios below.
- \*Hand hygiene should be performed by the resident and the visitors before and after contact.
- \*High touch surfaces should be frequently cleaned and disinfected.
- \*Facilities should have a plan to manage visitation and visitor flow. Visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, should physically distance from other residents, visitors and HCP in the facility, except as described in the scenarios below.
- \*Facilities might need to limit the total number of visitors in the facility at one time to maintain recommended infection control precautions. Facilities may need to limit the number of visitors per resident room to maintain required physical distancing.
- \*The location of a visit indoors should occur in the resident's room.

**UPDATED GUIDANCE: Physical distancing and source control recommendations when both the resident and their visitors are fully vaccinated:**

- \*While alone in the resident's room, residents and their visitors can choose to have close contact (including touch) and to not wear source control. (mask)
- \*Visitors should wear source control and physically distance from other HCP and other residents or visitors that are not part of their group at all other times while in the facility.

**Physical distancing and source control recommendations when either the resident or any of their visitors are not fully vaccinated:**

- \*The safest approach is for everyone to maintain physical distancing and to wear source control. However, if the resident is fully vaccinated they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their unvaccinated visitor while both continue to wear well-fitting masks.

What infection prevention and control practices are recommended when planning for and allowing group activities and communal dining?

**Group activities:**

- \*If all residents participating in the activity are fully vaccinated, then they may choose to have close contact and not to wear source control during the activity.
- \*If unvaccinated residents are present then all participants in the group activity should wear source control and unvaccinated residents should physically distance from others.
- \*If residents are taking social excursions outside the facility they should be educated about the potential risks of public settings, particularly if they have not been fully vaccinated. If residents are visiting family or friends in their homes they should follow the source control and visiting guidelines as described in the Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People.

**Communal dining:**

- \*Fully vaccinated residents can participate in communal dining without use of source control or physical distancing.
- \*If unvaccinated residents are dining in a communal area all residents should use source control when not eating and unvaccinated residents should continue to remain at least six feet from others.

**Healthcare Personnel:**

- \*In general, fully vaccinated HCP should continue to wear source control while at work. Fully vaccinated HCP could dine and socialize together in break rooms and conduct in-person meetings without source control or physical distancing. If unvaccinated HCP are present everyone should wear source control and unvaccinated HCP should physically distance from others.
- \*Fully vaccinated HCP may be exempt from expanded screening testing. However, vaccinated HCP should have a viral test if symptomatic, or has a higher-risk exposure or is working in a facility with an outbreak.

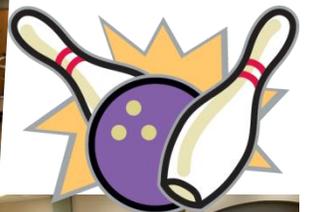
If you have any questions about this new guidance please feel free to contact me or the managers in the Birchwood Apartments or Birch Haven Assisted Living.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

In honor of Mother's Day the Baldwin Care will be selling succulent plants in an adorable owl vase for \$10 as a fundraiser for a campus vehicle. They will be available on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> during visiting hours at the front entrance.



Thank you to Dixie Helder for the delicious sugar and chocolate chip cookies for the staff of the Baldwin Care Center. A big thank you to the family of Lucy Crosby. The family brought flowers for all of the resident's dining tables and cupcakes for everyone in addition to a deli tray for the staff. The flowers and treats were enjoyed by everyone!



**Fun Activities**