

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



Welcome to the next edition of the Baldwin Care Center weekly newsletter. I am hopeful that the information being provided is helpful. A reminder that this update is going to family members listed as the primary contact for each resident. Please share this information with other family members. This weekly update is also posted on our website at [www.baldwincarecenter.com](http://www.baldwincarecenter.com), if other family members or friends would like to read it. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the weekly information.

During this past week there have been updates from the State of Wisconsin regarding testing for COVID19. Governor Evers announced Monday the state's plan to make Wisconsin one of the top states in testing per capita. Gov. Evers shared that Wisconsin is prepared to provide 85,000 COVID-19 tests per week, ensuring that everyone who needs a test receives a test. The Badger Bounce Back Plan announced previously was expanded on, and features four key testing goals:

- \*Respond to every employer, corrections and congregate care outbreak
- \*Test every nursing home resident and staff member
- \*Establish community testing programs for symptomatic individuals
- \*Ensure everyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms gets a test.

Actions to achieve these goals in long term care facilities include the following:

- \*Providing free testing and diagnostics to all of Wisconsin's 373 nursing homes to test all nursing home residents and staff, with the goal of testing more than 10,000 residents and staff per week during the month of May.
- \*Using a combination of public and private partners to call nursing facilities to coordinate supplies, logistics and test results.

Currently the facility continues to monitor all residents on the campus daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and vitals are taken. All staff on the campus are also monitored for signs and symptoms and temperatures are taken. Dr. Findlay, Medical Director will continue to be onsite daily to monitor the health of residents and staff. She is always happy to answer questions from family members. She is generally here every weekday morning and all day on Wednesday. Feel free to give her a call at the Baldwin Care Center if you have questions.

We know that the continued visiting restrictions are difficult for family members and residents. I have a brother who lives in a nursing facility that I am currently unable to visit, so I do have personal knowledge of how this feels. I do want to share with you that the state nursing home association that represents non-profit nursing homes like the Baldwin Care Center, Leading Age WI is advocating on behalf of residents and family members regarding visitations. They certainly recognize the need to take all necessary precautions to protect the health and safety of residents, but think that an extended ban on visits could be devastating for residents and family members. There are ideas being presented to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services by Leading Age WI that might allow visitation beyond video conferencing like Skype, Zoom or FaceTime. I will certainly keep you posted on how this develops. All settings on the campus are providing activities outside of the resident's rooms (in hallways and large spaces) while practicing social distancing and wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (masks). Staff are making an effort to take residents outside for walks, if they wish. At this time, the visiting restrictions continue to be in place.

I also want you to be aware that Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing facilities need to report information about COVID-19 weekly to the Centers for Disease Control at least weekly. Specifically, providers need to report:

\*Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 infections among staff and residents including residents previously treated for COVID-19

\*Total deaths and COVID-19 deaths among residents and staff

\*Personal Protective Equipment and hand hygiene supplies in the facility

\*Resident beds and census

\*Access to COVID-19 testing while the resident is in the facility

\*Staffing shortages

\*Other information as specified



At this time there are no residents on the campus who have tested positive for COVID-19. As I had mentioned in a previous newsletter, there was an employee who tested positive a month ago. She has not yet returned to work. There are no other staff on the campus who have tested positive at this time. We will update residents and families if we do have a positive test result for a resident or a staff member. We continue to be vigilant about taking necessary precautions to protect all of the residents.

This week we began a CNA course that is available for staff who already work on the campus to take. There are staff from Birchwood Apartments, Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center that will be taking the course. The first 16 hours of the course are available online. The classroom instruction is the next part of the course. The classroom instruction will be taught by Kayla Ridley, Nurse Manager for Birch Haven. The last portion of the class is the clinical instruction which will be held in Baldwin Care Center. Students will be working with the residents directly before completing the course. After completion of the 75 hour course these students will be able to take the exam to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. There is also a group of staff who are taking the 16 hour online course. After completion of the 16 hour course, these staff will be allowed to assist Certified Nursing Assistants with some tasks. This opportunity is being made available through an emergency order by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services during the COVID-19 crisis. This will increase the availability of staff who are able to care for residents on the campus.

thankyou

This week I would like to thank the following people for helping brighten the days of the residents and the staff:

Lucy Crosby Family – cake (*I forgot this last week*)

Doris Hansen Family – cake. (*Sorry, I forgot this too last week*)

Hollie, Harlow and Jade Bakke and their pony Olive – window visits on the entire campus

Mary Traxler's daughter – made and donated masks

Dan and Tricia Van Brunt – Bookmarks for residents on the campus

Don Timmerman – Ellsworth cheese curds for all the residents of the campus

Girl Scout Troop – Boxes of Girl Scout Cookies for all residents and staff to enjoy

*Eileen LaFavor,*

*Administrator Baldwin Care Center Campus*

