

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This weekly newsletter is being sent to family members and responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents. Please pass along information from the newsletter to other family members and friends if you are the primary contact for a resident. The weekly newsletter is also posted on the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com. If there are questions about the weekly newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.

On Wednesday, June 24th the staff and residents of the Baldwin Care Center completed COVID-19 testing. As was mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the first time the facility tested staff and residents, the majority of tests were mishandled by the lab and were ruined. The resident testing was completed by Dr. Kathleen Findlay and a Baldwin Care Center nurse. The staff testing was done by Denise Hague, Director of Nursing and a Baldwin Care Center nurse. The tests were picked up on Thursday by a courier service and transported to Exact Sciences lab in Madison. We are supposed to be able to access the results in 72 hours which should be Sunday or Monday, dependent upon what time the courier gets the tests there. If there is a positive staff member or residents, responsible parties and residents will be informed within 24 hours after the facility was informed of the positive result. Nursing facilities have still not received guidance from the State of Wisconsin regarding how often testing should be done on a regular basis. The time frames suggested during the weekly webinars with the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services have suggested testing every other week for residents and every week for staff. Collection of the tests is a pretty labor intensive process. The completion of testing can be a burden for staff in nursing facilities, where staff are already stretched thin. We are very lucky to have Dr. Kathleen Findlay, Medical Director here daily to assist us with things like testing. It is a rarity for nursing facilities to have a Dr. available daily in a nursing facility. Because Dr. Findlay has been available to round on residents daily, the residents here have received the best medical care possible during this difficult time.

The guidance regarding visitation from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services still does not have further guidance regarding visitation. We have been waiting for weeks for this guidance. I am not sure how many experts it takes to develop guidance for safe visiting for residents and families. I can share with you that the State of Minnesota has developed outdoor visitation guidance for residents in long term care. I am assuming the guidance from the State of Wisconsin will be similar. Their guidance includes the following:

- *The facility will establish a schedule for hours of visitation
- *Adequate staff must be present to assist with sanitizing and to assist residents to the visiting area
- *Staff will maintain visual observation but provide a distance necessary to provide for privacy
- *All visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including taking a temperature
- *Residents and visitors must wear a mask
- *The outdoor visitation spaces must support social distancing of at least six feet between visitor and resident
- *Alcohol based sanitizer will be used by visitors prior to seeing the resident
- *Visitors will be asked to sign in and provide contact information
- *Holding hands, hugging, kissing or other physical contact is not allowed due to the risk of exposure
- *Children or pets will not be allowed to visit
- *Residents who are positive for COVID-19, residents with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and residents in a 14 day isolation or observation period are not eligible for outdoor visits.
- *Facilities have the right to deny outdoor visitation if the guidance is not followed

I am assuming that the guidance from the State of Wisconsin will be similar. So this will give you an idea of what the guidance may be. As indicated previously, we will inform you as soon as we receive the guidance. The facility is already working on a policy for visitation to ensure that we can begin visitation shortly after the guidance comes out. We understand your frustration with this process and appreciate your patience.

This week the facility decided to do something new with entertainment. We have invited a musical entertainer to perform outside in the parking lot. Residents gathered outside with masks and 6 feet apart. The experiment seemed to be a success. The residents have really missed the live musical entertainment.



This week we would like to thank Lucy Crosby and her family for the amazing gift of massages for the staff at Baldwin Care Center. Lucille Crosby's daughter Shirley Cicchese coordinated this gift from Lucy and her family. Lucy and her family donated one hour massages for direct caregiver staff and some support staff involved in Lucy's care. Jane Schmidley, Massage Therapist from River Stone Massage in Hudson donated half hour massages for the rest of the staff. This is an incredibly generous gift! I know that many staff here, including myself are looking forward to a relaxing massage. Thank you so much for this kind of all of the staff. We truly appreciate it.

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

