

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. If you are the primary contact for a resident, please share this information with family members and other. Please refer them to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com so that they may read the newsletter in its entirety. All of the weekly newsletters are posted there. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at the Baldwin Care Center at 715-684-3231 Ext. 103 or via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com. I am hopeful that the newsletter continues to provide useful information for everyone.

This week, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services released guidance for providing on-site hair salon and beauty services. Beauty and barber services provided by a licensed professional stopped in mid-March when facilities were no longer able to let supportive services like beauty and barber services in the building. This is welcome news for residents and for the facility hair stylist, Katie Thomas. Katie is very excited to come back to work on the Baldwin Care Center campus. There are, of course very specific guidelines that need to be followed by the facilities prior to Katie returning that include developing and implementing procedures that address infection control measures and the management of safe salon services. The facility must have an adequate supply of personal protective equipment and cleaning and disinfecting supplies for staff and the stylist. The cosmetologist cannot be employed other than at the facility. They need to test negative for COVID-19 and follow guidelines for testing for facility staff. The cosmetologist must be screened for signs and symptoms before each visit. They must also wear PPE including a facemask, gown and gloves provided by the facility. Cosmetologists must clean and disinfect the area and equipment between resident appointments. Residents will need to wear a face covering while in transit to and from the salon and while in the salon. Only one resident will be allowed in the salon at a time. The resident will be screened for signs and symptoms prior to the appointment. The doors to the salon should be kept shut. We are currently working on the facility policy and procedure for providing on-site hair salon and barber services. Katie Thomas will be working in the Birchwood Apartments this Thursday and then is scheduled to work in Birch Haven Assisted Living next Friday, July 17th. The first date for services in the Baldwin Care Center has not been set yet. We will make you aware of what this date will be. I know the residents will be very excited to have regular salon services again.

The State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services also released guidance for Wisconsin Nursing Homes regarding COVID-19 testing for staff and residents. The State had recommended that facilities complete a test for all residents and staff to establish a baseline of infection prevalence in the population. Most facilities in Wisconsin have completed this initial testing. Since testing only provides information for a given point in time, residents and staff with negative test results can become infected in the future. For this reason, the State of Wisconsin DHS is recommending that nursing facilities retest all staff on a regular basis, at a minimum of every two weeks. They recommend that residents who leave and return to the facility (for example hospital transfers, dialysis patients, etc.) be retested. Residents should be tested when they are admitted or transfer into the facility. If testing capacity allows, they are recommending that residents be tested on a regular basis (possibly every 14 days). However, facilities should prioritize retesting of staff ahead of regular retesting of residents. As soon as possible, facilities should test any resident who develops symptoms of COVID-19. As an update for you, no residents or staff have had symptoms of COVID-19 since the facility wide retesting was done. As a reminder, all of the resident and staff tests were negative. No residents or staff members have exhibited symptoms and there have been no further COVID-19 positive tests done recently.

Last week the big news was the release of guidance for visitation for assisted living facilities. As I explained in last week's newsletter, the campus was going to begin outdoor visitation. The guidance for nursing facilities was not released. The Baldwin Care Center campus felt that they had developed safe visiting practices for both assisted living and the nursing home, so we decided to begin scheduling visits for those settings this week. The first visit occurred at Birch Haven Assisted Living on Monday this week and at Baldwin Care Center beginning on Thursday. The residents certainly seem to be happy to be able to visit with family members. There are several things that I need to reiterate with family members. Only one visitor per resident is allowed. The resident population has been divided up into three groups. Initially, residents will receive a visit during the next three week period. If I have contacted you regarding a visit, that means you have a scheduled visit during this past week on either Thursday or Friday at the Baldwin Care Center. Some family members have expressed some frustration when called that more than one family member cannot visit. Some family members have also assumed that visits will be weekly. At this time we are unable to provide weekly visits for each resident. Once we get through the initial three weeks and get a system down, we may be able to increase visits. At this time, this is what we are able to provide. We need to consider our personal protective equipment supply and also staff availability for monitoring visits. Some family members expressed frustration that another facility that they are aware of has already begun visitation. Policies for visitation vary by facility. My brother is a resident in a facility in the Eau Claire area. That facility has not allowed window visits at all, so I have not been able to see my brother since mid-March. So I definitely do understand the frustration everyone is feeling. We also need to make certain that our outdoor visitation provides a safe environment for residents, family members and staff, especially with the increases in case in St. Croix County, Wisconsin and the nation. I ask your patience and understanding through this process. A couple of reminders to family members based on the visits this week: Please do not bring more than one family member per visit. The visitation policy is clear on this. Please respect the visitation time frame for visits. Please do not bring anything to eat or drink with you. Masks must be worn during the visit by the residents and the visitor. A reminder that family members should not call either Birch Haven Assisted Living or Baldwin Care Center for appointment times. Staff from these facilities will be contacting you regarding available appointment times.