

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This weekly newsletter is being sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents of the Baldwin Care Center. The newsletter is also distributed to residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Responsible parties may want to share information with other family members. Responsible parties can also direct other family members and friends to the website at www.baldwincarecenter.com. Current and prior newsletters are posted there. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending the newsletter to responsible parties. The Birchwood Apartment Manager makes copies of the newsletter available to tenants. If there is a topic you would like discussed in the weekly newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.

This week I would like to follow up on the positive case that occurred in the Baldwin Care Center. As I indicated in last week's newsletter, we did have a direct care employee test positive for COVID-19 on October 15th with a rapid antigen test. All residents and responsible parties were notified of the suspected case on that day. The employee went to a local health care provider for a molecular test. This test needs to be sent to a lab and normally results are received within 3-5 days. This test is more accurate than the rapid test. This needs to be completed to verify the initial positive result. The result of the molecular test was also positive. Residents and family members were then notified that the molecular test was positive. The recommendation from St. Croix County Public Health was to place all residents in the building in quarantine because the positive employee had worked on both sides of the building. Currently, all residents are remaining in their rooms for meals. The Activity Department is continuing to provide hallway activities that residents can participate in from the doorway of their rooms. One -to-one visits have increased since the building is in quarantine. Residents may go outside, weather permitting and they may walk in the hallway if they are the only resident in the hallway and they are masked. If we do not have another positive case within the next two weeks, we will be able to take the residents out of quarantine on October 30th. This is the date we have the Halloween Party scheduled for. There will be costume competition for staff and a pumpkin decorating contest. The residents will participate in judging the costume contest and the pumpkin decorating contest. On Thursday, October 22nd we will be testing both residents and staff. This testing is conducted because of the positive case that has occurred. Another round of testing will occur on October 29th. If the results from both tests are negative for all residents and staff, we can go back to routine weekly testing for staff only for the test date of November 5th.



Both the Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living facilities have applied for a CLIA waiver to be able to perform COVID-19 tests for staff and residents. Both are awaiting a final indication regarding this waiver. When they receive this waiver they will be eligible to receive the rapid tests from the federal government. There is no guideline from regulators yet for testing in assisted living. Our goal in both of these settings would be to test 50% of the staff every other week, so that all staff are tested twice monthly. Currently testing would only be performed if there was a resident or staff member that had tested positive.



I would like to touch on indoor visitation on the campus. Currently Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living are scheduling appointments for visiting in the vestibule. Please make certain staff from both of these settings are aware that you are visiting. No visitor should come in the building to visit unless they are screened by a staff member. Recently a visitor was witnessed visiting without a mask.

The same guidelines that were in place for outdoor visits are in place for indoor visits. Visitors must wear a mask at all times and should remain 6 feet away. A health and temperature screening must be completed by a staff member before the visit can begin. Visitors should sanitize hands upon arrival and before departing. As soon as the quarantine ends in the Baldwin Care Center, indoor visitation will begin. The status for all visitations on the campus may change if St. Croix

County becomes a “red zone” with a positivity rate higher than 10%. Currently St. Croix County is in a “yellow zone” with a positivity rate for COVID-19 between 5-10%. We will obviously make everyone aware if the visitation policy changes.



Late last week, the federal government announced that they have funded the cost to produce and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine to long-term care providers when it is available. CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens would bill insurers, Medicare or Medicaid for the cost of administering the vaccine. Longterm care providers are being urged to participate in this federal vaccination program. The details regarding the rollout of the program are yet to be determined. The goal would be to begin the vaccine administration process within 24-48 hours of an Emergency Use Authorization being issued. The program is completely voluntary for participants. There are some concerns about ensuring resident and staff safety. I will bring you updates as they become available.

Thank you to the family of Mary Zimmer for the beautiful bouquet for the staff of Birch Haven Assisted Living. The family was very appreciative of the care that Mary received.

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*



**Pumpkins on Parade
Monday, Oct. 26th**