

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This newsletter is being sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is sending this newsletter to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood Apartment tenants. Responsible parties can direct their family members to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com to read current and previous newsletters. If there is a topic you would like discussed in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of **HEALTH SERVICES**

I would like to discuss some new direction from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services. A memo titled "Prevention and Control of Acute Respiratory Illness Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities" was released on December 13th. The memo is intended to provide guidance to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), community-based residential facilities (CBRFs), and residential care apartment complexes) RCACs. So this new guidance applies to all settings on the campus. The memo outlines guidance for long-term care facilities when an outbreak of acute respiratory illness (ARI) (COVID-19 and other viral respiratory disease) is suspected. The most significant change to prior guidance is regarding visitors during a non-COVID-19 respiratory disease outbreak. An example might be if a resident tested positive for influenza (respiratory type). The guidance indicates that a facility with a confirmed or suspected respiratory outbreak should immediately restrict ALL visitations except for certain compassionate care reasons. The facility is directed to: *Post signs at the entrances to the facility advising that only limited visitors may enter the facility *Send letters or emails to families advising that visitors will be restricted from the affected units or wings except for compassionate care visits *Use of alternative methods for visitation (video conferencing) should be facilitated by the facility *Visitor restrictions to the affected units should remain in effect until 7 days after the onset of the illness for the last resident or staff case identified with no other residents or staff showing any signs or symptoms of illness. Visitation guidance for COVID-19 outbreaks has not changed. All visitors must be screened prior to entry and those who meet quarantine criteria, including those with symptoms should not be permitted to enter.

On Wednesday, December 13th the Fifth Court of Appeals in New Orleans reversed a nationwide block on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care entities. The ruling reinstates the mandate in 26 states, including Wisconsin. The mandate is not in effect for the 24 states that filed injunctions previously. So what does the mean for Wisconsin providers covered under the vaccine mandate? Facilities should be in compliance with the mandate. There has been no direction provided as to whether the deadline dates will be extended because of the pause that recently occurred. At this particular time, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services that surveys nursing facilities is indicating that they will not enforce the mandate. Wisconsin DHS is waiting for CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) to give them direction regarding enforcement of the mandate. I will keep you updated. Things change pretty quickly sometimes. The Baldwin Care Center had developed and followed a process to be compliant with the vaccine mandate by the previous December 6th deadline.

During this two week period we have had two staff that tested positive for COVID-19 in the Baldwin Care Center. One staff member works very limited and did not have any contact with residents. After the positive cases, both staff and residents were tested. We have had no further positive results. There have been no positive cases in Birchwood Apartments or Birch Haven Assisted Living.



On Monday, December 13th we held our annual Circle of Love Lighting Ceremony. The names of the contributors were read and recognized. Pastor John Hanson came to lead us in the singing of some Christmas carols. Diana Rickard, owner of Fantasy Corral and daughter of resident Annabel Bazille brought animals from her farm. Residents enjoyed petting the animals including goats, sheep, a donkey named Pocket and a camel named Eve. Eve was very interesting. Diana shared that Eve was five years old and was pregnant. Eve is due in the

Spring. All of the camels from Fantasy Corral have biblical names. We are going to involve the residents in helping select a name for Eve's calf. Hot cider and cookies were enjoyed by everyone attending. Thank you to everyone who contributed and attended.



Some thank yous were forgotten in the last newsletter. I would like to thank Peace Lutheran Sunday School Director Angie Bienwerth for the Thanksgiving cards for the entire campus. Kay and Melissa Briles donated poinsettias. Dan and Tricia Van Brunt from the New Centerville United Methodist Church made Thanksgiving cards for the entire campus. Dan and Tricia also donated Christmas placemats and bookmarks for the residents of the campus, in addition to Christmas word searches and Christmas cards for each resident. First Bank of Baldwin made a donation to be used for the residents of the campus and also brought cookie trays for the residents. Birch Haven Assisted Living received a donation

from the family of Lory Hawkins. The donation will be used for a memorial bench in front of Birch Haven Assisted Living. Lory enjoyed watching the parachuters on the front porch. Thank you also to Kari Logterman for delivering L'Bri slipper socks for all of the residents of the campus and lotion for the staff. The gifts were donated by community members and friends. Thank you to the family of Iris Nadeau for the cookies and treats for the staff from the cookie factory. We also thank the family of Sue Pierson for the fresh fruit box from Harry and David. We would like to thank Angela Schmoker, Family and Consumer Science teacher at BW High School and her students for the gifts they donated to each resident and for the clothing protectors that were made and donated. Thank you to Western Wisconsin Health for the gift bags of socks for our residents. Thank you so much to everyone who is remembering us during the holiday season. This season can sometimes be difficult for residents of the campus. We truly appreciate all of your support. All of us here at the Baldwin Care Center Campus wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator



Santa Visits BCC



Birchwood Apartments

