

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This newsletter is being sent to responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending this newsletter to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood Apartment tenants. Responsible parties can direct other family members and friends 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 contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.

The primary topic of the week continues to be visitation. Last week I highlighted the major points of the new guidelines for visiting on the campus. I would like to expand this week regarding visitation in the Birchwood Apartment setting and in Birch Haven Assisted Living. When the visitation guidance was released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the guidance was directed at skilled nursing facilities licensed like Baldwin Care Center. At the time this guidance was released, there were no specific guidelines issued for an RCAC (Residential Care Apartment Complex) which Birchwood Apartments are licensed as, or for a CBRF (Community Based Residential Facility) like Birch Haven Assisted Living. This week during the assisted living webinar, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services discussed the guidelines that are currently not published and are only in draft form. The Wisconsin DHS guidelines pretty much mirror the guidelines that were released for nursing homes by CMS. Since I developed the campus policy from the CMS guidelines for nursing homes it does not appear that any changes need to be made to the visitation policy at this time. We know that things change frequently at the state and federal level, so I will keep you updated if there is a change in the visiting guidelines.



I want to review the current visiting hours for the Baldwin Care Center Campus. Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living visiting hours are from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. daily. Birch Haven would like family members to call to pre-schedule visits on the weekend. Birchwood Apartments visiting hours are from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. daily. The visiting hours vary by setting because of the staffing patterns in each of those buildings. The Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living have employees staffed 24 hours per day. Birchwood Apartments does not. I would ask your patience regarding allowing staff in all of the settings time to get to the door to let visitors in. We are unable to staff employees to sit at the door and wait for visitors. The employees in all of the settings have responsibilities caring for residents, etc. We have an advantage in the Baldwin Care Center that someone is seated in the office which is in view of the vestibule. Birch Haven and Birchwood Apartments do not have the same advantage, particularly on weekends. If you are waiting at one of the doors, please call the specific facility and alert staff that you are waiting and they will be with you as soon as they can. The guidelines we have been given are very specific regarding requiring visitors to be screened. Visitors must be screened by staff before entering any of the settings. There was an incident this past weekend that a family member entered through the employee door of Birch Haven Assisted Living without being screened. When we were doing vestibule visits in Birchwood Apartments, there were instances where tenants let family members into their apartments. Some Baldwin Care Center family members have chosen to extend the recommended one hour visiting time. This personal decision could be taking a visit away from someone else. There are a maximum number of people that can be in the building at one time. Please respect all of the guidelines when entering any of the campus facilities. Instances like these of family members not following the rules will be reason to re-evaluate those family member's ability to visit in the future. We really need your cooperation with these new guidelines. Please help us keep all the residents on the campus safe. Just a reminder that if there is a COVID-19 positive case for a resident or staff member, visitation needs to be stopped in that setting until testing can be completed. If you have questions about the visiting guidelines, please contact the managers in those settings. The Visitation guidelines are available to read on the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com.

The positivity rate in the county continues to remain at a level below 5% which means that we are only required to test staff every other week in the Baldwin Care Center setting. Testing requirements for the assisted living settings have been less stringent. They are testing staff with rapid tests every other week. Residents in all settings do not need to be tested unless they have any symptoms or there is a resident or staff case.

With the decrease in COVID-19 positive cases, we are now able to have the beautician working in all three settings on the campus providing beauty and barber services. This service is one that many have missed for quite some time. If you have a family member that would like to be placed on the list for services, please let us know.



This week we would like to thank Dan and Tricia Van Brunt from the New Centerville Methodist Church for donating Easter coloring books and crayons for every resident on the campus. A thank you to Dorothy LaFavor's daughter Holly Geck for the meat and cheese tray for the staff. Thank you to Gethsemane Church for donating hymnals to the Birchwood Apartments.

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

Searching For Spring

