



09/16/2021

To keep you up-to-date on our efforts to keep our residents and staff safe, we will send out this update as things change in our community:

- **Our COVID-19 situation:** Since our update sent out last week, a total of two team members in our North building are actively quarantining due to testing positive for COVID-19. Weekly outbreak testing commenced on Monday, September 13, 2021. This testing is mandatory for all team members and recommended for all residents. As of 09/15/2021, we have **0 new** laboratory confirmed cases.
 - We will continue to test weekly every Monday until we have 2 consecutive rounds of 100% negative results. We thank you for your continued understanding and diligence in adhering to our infection control protocols including following visitation guidelines, proper social distancing, and wearing masks appropriately when on site.
- **Visitation:**
 - NORTH BUILDING – **Compassionate Care Visits (such as hospice visits) and Essential Caregiver Visits will continue to be allowed. Please contact Lindsey Chouinard, RN at lindseyc@birchwoodcottagesmn.com or 507-594-8275 if you would like to learn more about becoming designated as an Essential Caregiver.**
 - SOUTH BUILDING – Visitation can resume.
24 Hours is requested for following circumstances. Please utilize [Microsoft Bookings](#). See attachment.
 - Parties of 3 or more
 - If requesting to eat a meal with loved one
 - If wishing to bring a pet
 - Important note: Please provide up to date vaccination record prior to bringing your pet.
 - When reserving a particular space such as salon or front sunrooms
 - When making appointments, please make sure to register all parties who will be present to ensure all individuals will be granted access at the door.
- **From our Engagement team:**
 - Please join us Sunday, September 19th at 10 am for the **Walk to End Alzheimer's** at the Steele County Fairgrounds; our team will wear purple and meet at the Fairgrounds!
 - Please continue to contact Erin Carter at erinc@birchwoodcottagesmn.com or (507) 594-8005 if you are interested in setting up any Zoom meetings, FaceTime's or Google Duo's. We continue to get creative in how we can safely connect you with your loved ones. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please reach out. We appreciate all the support, prayers, and offers of help that we've received. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Elli Fuller, at elisiaf@birchwoodcottagesmn.com or 507-594-8273.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR COVID-19 PROTECTION ACTIONS

Actions we take when a resident/tenant is diagnosed positive for COVID-19:

- Notify the family of the person.
- Quarantine the person in their room or move them to an isolated area.
- Work directly with the Minnesota Department of Health to guide our next steps in monitoring and testing residents and staff, as well as infection control to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Send a communication out to residents and families about the case.

Actions we take when a staff case is diagnosed positive for COVID-19:

- Staff self-quarantines at home.
- Work directly with the Minnesota Department of Health to guide our next steps in monitoring and testing residents and staff, as well as infection control to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Allow staff to return to work when staff have been fever-free without use of medication for at least 72-hours, have improved respiratory symptoms, and it has been at least 7 days since their first symptoms first appeared.

Infection Control Measures: This includes limiting residents from congregating in social spaces, moving throughout the building and encouraging them to keep to their rooms while keeping in mind the unique needs of residents experiencing dementia.