



12/8/2020

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:** As of 11/30/2020, the results of all the staff and residents that were tested were negative. We thank you for your continued understanding and diligence in adhering to our infection control protocols.
- **From our Engagement team:**
 - We are planning a Christmas Zoom Sing-a-long with the Birchwood Mockingbirds in the North building on Monday, December 21st at 3:30 pm. Please message Erin Carter at erinc@birchwoodcottagesmn.com if you would like more information on joining this fun event or would like a link to the recording if you are unable to attend at that time.
 - Both buildings are also planning a **Santa to a Senior program** this year. Our scheduling assistants have been rock stars in asking each of the residents what they may want for Christmas. 3 of their wishes will be going in an ornament on a Christmas tree in their respective building. A staff member will be getting a small gift and each building will have a gift-giving day the week of Christmas. We are looking forward to sharing pictures and stories as this is our first year trying this out.
 - We are also planning on having one of our employees, Lani Larsen, who owns Lani Larsen Photography, take professional pictures of your loved ones; be on the look out for those pictures being available to you and your family!
 - Many of you have been asking about what you can do for the residents as a whole. The following is a list of ongoing resources our team uses for crafts, decorations and “bigger picture” dreams our Engagement team has thought of:
 - Card Stock of all colors, seasonal colors appreciated
 - Elmer glue sticks
 - Blank canvases
 - Large popsicle sticks
 - Beach balls
 - Fishing wire
 - Used Christmas trees, all sizes
 - Nerf guns
 - Pool noodles
 - Donated dresses of any kind and size
 - We currently have an engagement aide job opportunity in our South building. If you know any qualified and interested candidates, please contact Erin Carter at erinc@birchwoodcottagesmn.com or (507) 594-8005.

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.

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.