



# COVID-19 UPDATE

1/25/21

- **Our COVID-19 situation: Still NO residents with COVID after 10 months!** As of 12/28/20 we had a visiting provider who tested positive with no symptoms. Again, our building was considered Covid positive for 28 days which ended yesterday. You may have seen our name on the state list again for a week during the first 14 days. Every 2 -3 weeks we are screening team members for COVID but all screens have been negative! Had our 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Moderna Covid vaccine on 1/19/21 and our 2<sup>nd</sup> dose will be 2/16/21. I have heard of very few side effects for our residents which is great. Only a few residents did not receive the vaccine and so far, we've had 30% of our team vaccinated. They suggest you stagger staff vaccines when possible so if some need to be off a few days, it's not your whole team. More will be taking their 1<sup>st</sup> dose in February. We may even have a few doses for some Essential Caregivers so be in touch if you're interested. You would need to be available for both doses.
- **Suspending visits:** At this time, we are still **suspending ALL visits** including Essential Caregivers. We are glad to see our positivity rates go down and with one vaccine under our belts, we are looking forward to lessening our visitor restrictions in the near future. Currently we will only make exceptions for compassionate care visits. We will also contact any Essential Caregiver if we feel a visit is truly necessary for your loved one. Thanks again for your patience with this!!
- **Staying in touch:** Closed window visits, video chats and phone calls are ways to stay in touch. For window visits and video chats we do need appointments a day in advance. Contact activities at 507-613-0006 ext.5
- **From our leadership team:** We appreciate all the continued support & prayers from families. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Kim Alinder at [kima@birchwoodcottagesmn.com](mailto:kima@birchwoodcottagesmn.com) or call 507-594-8386. **-Stay healthy, stay hopeful!**

## 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 of Covid-19.

### 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 24-hours, have improved respiratory symptoms, and have met the current MDH guidelines for being off work, often 14 days.
- Inform families of a laboratory confirmed case of Covid-19.

**Infection Control Measures:** This includes limiting visitors from congregating in social spaces, moving throughout the building and encouraging them to stay in the resident rooms. While keeping in mind the unique needs of residents experiencing dementia, we are encouraging resident use of masks when able, social distancing and continued good hand hygiene. Staff continue to wear face masks at all times and eye protection when within 6 ft of another person.