



1/28/2021

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:** As of 1/28/2021, we have **1 new** laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 for a staff member in the South building. This staff member was not in the building for over 14 days prior to the positive result. As this was a low-risk exposure, immediate emergency notification was not necessary. Due to a possible exposure to this positive person outside Birchwood Cottages, a second team member was placed on quarantine and later deemed presumptive positive (they developed symptoms during quarantine but did not get a laboratory test to confirm diagnosis). As a precautionary measure, Birchwood Cottages initiated campus wide testing. This testing is voluntary for residents and mandatory for team members. Our first round of laboratory testing occurred on Monday, January 25th and all 94 individuals tested negative. We will continue to test weekly 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.
- **Indoor Visitation:** Continues to be suspended at this time.
- **Vaccine:** We have successfully given 1 dose of the Moderna vaccine on 1/14/2021 and have our next dose scheduled for 2/11/2021.
- **From our Engagement team:** 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 don't hesitate to contact us.

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.