

December 18, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

Information for us is changing for us monthly, weekly, daily and some days even hourly. As I share this weekly letter with you, please know that this is a time of rapid change – particularly surrounding testing and the upcoming vaccine.

Based on the results from Tuesday's test, we have one additional resident that has tested positive and three additional staff. We also have several more staff on quarantine for exposure. We are strongly encouraging staff to limit their exposure by staying home as much as possible when not at work.

We are utilizing our RED zone for those COVID positive residents, working diligently to minimize any further spread. Staff working in this zone are in full PPE and follow full precautions to eliminate any spread from room to room.

Sadly, these additional cases have altered our original holiday plans. We are no longer able to have Santa pass out gifts to residents in small groups. This has also postponed window and beautician visits for the time being. We know that this is not at all what any of us want, especially during the holidays, however we are doing all we can to ensure that we are keeping residents safe so will all be able to gather again soon.

We do continue to do virtual visits with residents. We have expanded these times throughout the day and early evenings and will assist all that we can with the staff we have available.

While Christmas plans are being altered we are still trying to make it as special as possible. Our staff have put together a Plan B to keep holiday spirits alive. Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> will start our **FOUR Days of Christmas** for our residents. Each day, the residents will receive a different present to open and enjoy. Nursing staff will pass the gifts out to the residents when going in to assist with cares and assist them with opening it.

We have received a very generous number of gifts from the West Bend Community and local church groups. The outpouring of generosity and kindness has been amazing! We are so very thankful. Our Four Days of Christmas schedule is listed below.

Monday:

The FIRST Day of GIFTS

Afternoon Special Snack: Cheese, sausage, crackers and wine.

Channel 900 Special Feature of Department Heads sharing Christmas Carols for the Residents

Tuesday:

The SECOND Day of GIFTS

Afternoon Special Snack: Chex mix, Old Fashioneds

Channel 900 Santa and his elf special program at 2:00pm

Wednesday:

The THIRD Day of GIFTS

Afternoon Special Snack: Cookies and Cocoa with Irish Cream

Channel 900 Special piano music at 2:00pm

Thursday:

The FOURTH Day of GIFTS

Channel 900 Holiday movie on at 10:00 am

If you would like to drop off a Christmas gift for your loved one we are still having drop offs at the front lobby. These will be delivered at 11AM and 4PM Monday-Thursday and as staff are available on Friday (Christmas Day).

Moving onto the big news of vaccines. We received notice that we, as a long term care and assisted living facility we will be in the first wave of vaccine distributions. Please watch closely next week, as we will be sending out both a FACT sheets and CONSENT forms to POAs.

Our first clinic day will tentatively be December 30<sup>th</sup>. We know this is scheduled very quickly but this is something we were expecting once the vaccine was approved.

The vaccine is given in two dosages – each about 21 days apart. CVS Pharmacy will be doing the mRNA COVID vaccines for both residents and staff starting this date. As of now, there will be three clinic dates where staff and residents can get their first and second dose of vaccine if they so choose.

Much more information will be coming in the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, the CDC updates information frequently. Here is a suggested website that discusses information about the vaccine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/vaccination.html>

As always, please do not hesitate to call. Our commitment is to be transparent and as informative as possible.

Thank you for helping hold each other up during these challenging days and months.

We continue to look to celebrate life and family – together.

Sincerely,

*Mari Beth Borek*

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