



May 21, 2020

Brewster has implemented a variety of interventions to prevent COVID-19 from entering campus and to reduce the possibility of the virus spreading if it does. We closed our buildings to visitors and have actively screened staff and residents continuously for symptoms since early March. During this time we have sent dozens of staff home for quarantine or testing out of caution.

Understanding this virus can be transferred prior to any symptoms, we put interventions into place to mitigate the potential spread of the virus if it was in fact carried into campus, such as face coverings worn by staff and residents, enhanced sanitation protocols, cessation of congregate dining and activities, enforcement of social distancing, and consistent assignment of caregivers which limits the number of residents a caregiver may come into contact with.

This morning I was notified that one of our staff tested positive for the virus.

This staff person was properly screened for symptoms prior to working each shift at Brewster. This person was never symptomatic at Brewster. Prior to returning to work from their scheduled days off, this staff person called seeking guidance due to having minor symptoms. We informed this person they could not return to work until tested for COVID-19. They received positive test results this morning.

We have been in contact with local and state authorities as well as our Medical Director and are taking action in accordance with governmental guidance and our existing plans. We are receiving testing kits for all residents and staff at Brewster Health Center and others as directed by KDHE. We are testing immediately and hope to have all the results within 3-5 days.

We have informed the residents and family members who may have had any contact with this staff person. We will continue to perform the enhanced symptom screening we enacted in March. Be assured we are moving with the utmost of concern and caution to identify and mitigate risks to the extent possible. At this point, there are no symptomatic residents or staff members.

I will update you as soon as we have additional information. In the meantime, it is very important you continue with the safe practices of vigorous hand washing, wearing of a face covering in public, and maintaining social distance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions. Thank you.

Joe Ewert
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