



March 12, 2020

Dear Brewster Residents,

As you know from the news, the United States has seen an increase of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). While the risk of contracting this virus is low – especially in northeast Kansas – we want to take precautions now so that this risk remains low for the Brewster community. We are following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and CMS. We are working closely with our Medical Director and others to assure we take the most appropriate measures to reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Brewster Place is accredited by the Joint Commission, and maintains emergency plans for a variety of issues, including pandemics. The Brewster clinical team has multiple levels of interventions for prevention, testing, isolation, treatment and recovery. We will be utilizing variations of these clinical pathways across our campus, based on ongoing assessment of relevant risk factors.

Coronavirus:

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is respiratory illness that presents with symptoms similar to the flu. Symptoms include a cough, fever and shortness of breath.

Coronavirus in Kansas:

As of yesterday (3-11-2020), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has done a total of 42 tests and all have been negative – except for the one positive case in Johnson County.

Individual Precautions:

We urge everyone to practice these simple precautions:

- Wash hands frequently (using soap and water for 20 seconds)
- Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Clean hard surfaces (counters, door knobs, keyboards, etc) frequently
- If you have symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath), please stay home and call Home Health at 274-3342 if you need assistance.

Brewster Place Precautions as of Thursday, March 12:

Brewster Health Center:

We ask that you postpone any non-emergent visits to Brewster Health Center. If you absolutely must visit, we ask that you enter via the south entrance of Brewster Health Center where a staff member will take your temperature and conduct a brief screen for risk factors. If your temperature is over 99.9 degrees, you will not be allowed to enter. The residents in the health center are at greatest risk for harm if contracting the virus. Please avoid unnecessary travel to the health center.

Activities:

All Brewster Place activities, classes and programs are canceled for the next two weeks beginning today. The Main Street Chapel will, however, be available for memorial services if needed. At this point the most effective way to reduce

risk of getting or spreading the virus is to reduce the person to person interaction. For Brewster Place, that means reducing the number and frequency of group gatherings. We are not locking down the campus. The wellness centers and art studios will remain open for your use at this time. We may select to close these spaces if we see an outbreak occur in Topeka.

Meals:

The Greenleaf at Redwood, The Evergreens Grill, The Market and Brewster Bean will remain open. If you would like meals delivered to your residence, please call 274-3340 to have your meal delivered. Deliveries will be FREE during the two week period. Meals delivered to residences will be limited to the main entrée and sides. Orders from the short order menu will be limited to those who come to the dining room.

Hours for Meal Delivery

(Please call 274-3340 at Redwood or 274-3359 at The Evergreens to place your order)

Redwood

7:00 – 10:00 am

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

4:00 – 6:00 pm

The Evergreens

12:00 – 1:00 pm

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Transportation:

Transportation to memorial services, special off site programs and routine transportation is still being provided.

Please protect yourself and others. Practice great hand hygiene, limit the large group activities you participate in for the next few weeks, and by all means, if you are not feeling well or if you are exposed to an illness please stay home and let us help with your daily needs or tasks.

We are approaching this with an overabundance of caution but please remember that the risk of infection from this virus is low. There are countless hours of television programming available on the coronavirus right now, all of them designed to maximize the number of viewers tuned in each hour. While compelling, too much of this programming can stoke fear or anxiety. Remember to look out for not only your physical health, but your mental health as well over the next few weeks as campus is a little quieter than normal. Please keep an eye on BPTV for news and updates from around campus. Please also check out the Brewster Place Facebook page for the latest and most up to date information about changes to campus activities. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Joe