



**UPDATED:** Monday, March 16, 2020

Dear Brewster Residents,

This communication provides updated information to Brewster residents. **All previous protocols from the March 12 update letter continue to be in place with the addition of the information provided in this letter.**

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 The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the federal agency overseeing communities such as Brewster. 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. **Pandemic plans are adjusted according to details specific to the virus in question.** 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. The measures I am discussing today, aid in preventing the virus from spreading on campus. **Please note: There are zero confirmed cases of this virus in Shawnee County as I write this.**

#### **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 (3-15-2020),** Kansas had 8 confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19). There are no confirmed cases in Shawnee 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.

**Visitor Restrictions:**

**Brewster Health Center, Redwood, The Evergreens, and Assisted Living are now CLOSED TO VISITORS.**

Visitors are considered anyone not living in the specific building in question, or staff and essential support services. We are actively turning away visitors at this time at BHC. We will secure the doors to Redwood and The Evergreens and will **turn away visitors starting Tuesday March 17**. If you have family with an urgent need to enter the restricted areas, please call 274-5099 to speak with a leader who can help you.

**Dining:**

**All dining venues on campus will be closed starting Tuesday, March 17.** (This includes Greenleaf at Redwood, The Evergreens Grill, The Market and Brewster Bean). **Free meal delivery** will be available campus-wide during the closure. We will provide a request form to your apartment for you to request meals for the following day. **Please post the completed form outside your door no later than 6:00 pm each afternoon, to receive your selected meal deliveries for the following day.**

**Transportation:**

Transportation for medical appointments, and to pick up prescriptions will continue. Bus routes to shopping and other destinations are canceled. We are offering personal shopping services for free during this time. If you need personal shopping items, please contact the **Communications Center at 274-3320** to request this service. Items requested will be delivered the following day.

**Activities:**

**All public spaces in Redwood and The Evergreens will be closed through March 29.** This includes the wellness centers, dining rooms, arts and crafts studios, woodworking shop and other community game and social areas. Please refrain from congregating in the commons spaces at this time.

All services in the Chapel will be canceled starting Tuesday, March 17. Any memorial services currently scheduled in the Chapel will continue. No further memorials will be scheduled in the Chapel until further notice.

**Beauty Shops:**

**The Brewster Place beauty shops are closed starting Tuesday, March 17.**

**Kaw Valley Bank at Brewster Place**

**Kaw Valley Bank at Main Street is closed until further notice.**

**Staff Monitoring:**

All staff working in resident buildings will be screened for symptoms and have their temperature checked prior to each shift. Additional monitoring will be conducted based on CDC and KDHE guidelines.

**Independent Living Resident Travel Return Precautions as of Monday, March 16:**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has issued the following guidance related to self-quarantine. All our staff are subject to this guidance as well. We ask our residents read and observe the following guidance:

**KDHE is now recommending 14-day home quarantine for Kansans who have:**

- Traveled to a state with known widespread community transmission (currently California, New York and Washington state) on or after March 15.
- Visited Eagle, Summit, Pitkin and Gunnison counties in Colorado within the past week.

- Traveled on a cruise ship on or after March 15. People who have previously been told by Public Health to quarantine because of their cruise ship travel should finish out their quarantine.
- Traveled internationally on or after March 15. People who have previously been told by Public Health to quarantine because of their international travel should finish out their quarantine.
- Received notification from public health officials (state or local) that you are a close contact of a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19. You should quarantine at home for 14 days since your last contact with the case. (A close contact is defined as someone who has been closer than 6 feet for more than 10 minutes while the patient is symptomatic.)

Please continue to 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. **Please contact our Community Nurse at 274-3342 if you would like a free symptom screen.**

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 1960 for news and updates from around campus. We are working to provide more programming on BPTV 1960 (exercise classes, movies, etc), so stayed tuned! Please also check our Facebook page for the latest and most up-to-date information about changes to campus activities. As always, 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