



**UPDATE:** Monday April 6, 2020

Good afternoon,

Thank you for working with us as we respond to the coronavirus. We continue to see the number of new confirmed cases grow each day in Kansas and the Shawnee county area. Recently, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment estimated Kansas will see the spread of the virus peak the last week of April. It is unknown how long after the peak we will need to maintain the current precautions, but it appears we are still very much on the front edge of the pandemic in Kansas.

**The CDC now recommends people wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.** Such places on campus would include any congregate areas, reception areas, areas around mail boxes and others. **Residents will be required to wear a cloth face covering when riding in a Brewster vehicle for any purpose.** The recommendation does not appear to include outdoor areas where maintaining social distance is easily achieved. Brewster does not have masks, kerchiefs or other cloth face coverings available for residents at this time. Please visit the Brewster Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/brewsterplace.org](http://www.facebook.com/brewsterplace.org)) to view an instructional video demonstrating how to make a simple face covering that requires no sewing. Instructions are also attached to this letter and will be posted around campus.

**To keep everyone safe on campus, it is imperative you tell us if you have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19, or if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been or are planning to be tested. I cannot emphasize how important this is.** Please call the community nurse at **274-3342** if you meet any of the above criteria.

We continue in our diligence to prevent COVID-19 from entering our campus; however, we must be prepared to care for residents in the event someone is exposed to this virus. We, therefore, want to make you aware of our plan to care for those exposed to COVID-19.

**Hospitals represent a high risk for being exposed to COVID-19.** If you go to the hospital for any reason, we need you to call Brewster's community nurse at **274-3342** to let us know. Brewster's Medical Director Dr. Sundbye has ordered all residents returning from the hospital be quarantined for a mandated 14 days. If you are quarantined, you must isolate within your home and not venture out for any reason. This would apply to spouses as well. Meals and necessary items will be delivered to your door. A representative from Brewster will speak with

you when you return from the hospital regarding details of the quarantine, including how to monitor yourself for symptoms and where you may find help during this time. **It is critical everyone follows this guideline.**

**Brewster's Beck Rehab Center is being set up as an isolation area.** It is designed with private rooms complete with private shower rooms and its own entrance. Additionally, the HVAC system is designed so air is never recirculated within the building, but instead draws fresh air in and pushes inside air out.

**If a resident becomes ill, or returns from the hospital with respiratory symptoms similar to COVID-19,** we will care for them in the Beck Rehab Center where clinical staff can closely monitor and treat for symptoms or distress. Dr. Sundbye, along with a core cadre of Brewster staff, is prepared to care only for residents isolated or confirmed to have COVID-19. This strategy will help us contain and control the virus on campus.

Like everyone else, I wish we were nearing the end of this pandemic. Unfortunately, it looks like we have several more weeks to embrace the restricted lifestyles we have adopted. It is easy to get weary of the social isolation, and it is difficult to maintain the high levels of discipline we have managed these past weeks. The longer we go without witnessing active cases on campus increases the likelihood that complacency may set in. It will be tempting to break discipline and gather in groups, to venture out more than we need, or to slack on hand hygiene. I implore you to maintain diligence in all you do in the coming weeks. The mission to prevent this virus from taking hold at Brewster falls to each and every one of us.

We are very lucky at Brewster to have the resources we do, and we are using all of them to keep our community safe right now. I am personally encouraged with preparations our teams have made to assure anyone on campus who falls ill with this virus will get the very best care possible.

I am planning a **Virtual Cup of Joe** that we will broadcast on BPTV 1960 in the coming weeks. I would love to be able to answer as many questions as you may have at that time. If you have questions you would like me to answer during the broadcast, please call Jacy Lenard at 274-5050 or email her at [jacy.lenard@brewsterliving.org](mailto:jacy.lenard@brewsterliving.org).

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can help you with. Stay safe and stay healthy.

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