



July 24, 2020

Dear Residents and Family,

I am pleased to see the average number new COVID-19 cases in Shawnee County falling after a significant spike that started in early July. Our experience during the spike mirrored that of the county in general. We identified staff members and family members who tested positive for the virus. I am pleased that through this spike, no one caught or transmitted the virus here on campus. Over the past several months, we have focused significant resources on reducing risk, limiting person to person contact, avoiding activities, and providing resources to help you avoid public spaces. The result of these efforts helped us avoid residents or staff contracting COVID-19 at Brewster. With that being said, I believe this virus will be a factor in our lives for a long while. It is not enough that we isolate from the virus at all costs, we must also learn to live in our new reality. This means we must learn to re-engage with others to nurture meaningful relationships, to engage in meaningful work and activity, find joy in lifelong learning and hobbies, and develop our spiritual well-being.

We will continue to open amenities and program offerings that closed due to COVID-19. Beginning Monday, July 27 the wellness centers and arts and crafts studios are opening to unsupervised use. Additional details are attached to this letter regarding the use of these spaces. Please be mindful and abide by the reduced capacity of these areas and practice social distancing. Please read and follow all directions to assure the spaces remain clean and sanitary for the next user. Most importantly, if you have any symptoms of illness at all, do not enter or use the commons spaces.

Brewster is opening the Independent Living buildings to off-campus visitors starting Saturday, August 1. We are not asking guests to make reservations. All guests must be screened prior to traveling through any common spaces. This includes entry and travel through common spaces in Redwood, The Evergreens, Oak, Maple, Cedar, and the Cottonwood Villas.

Screening checkpoints are available from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the north entrance of The Evergreens, the main entrance of Redwood, and the Security Office (located on the west side of Redwood near the Assisted Living breezeway). All visitors entering buildings outside of this time-frame, must be screened at the Security check point which is open 24/7. Visitors must proceed directly to their friend's or loved one's home after being screened. We ask visitors to not meet or congregate in any indoor common space. At this time we ask you that you host not more than six visitors at a time. Outdoor visiting is encouraged for those wishing to meet in larger groups.

Visitors must wear a face covering at all times while on campus. This includes while visiting in your home or apartment. Overnight guests are not allowed at this time without prior approval. Approval will be reserved for residents who have an overnight care giving need. Please contact 274-5099 to speak with a leader who can help you if you require an overnight guest. Limited guest rooms are available for use as availability permits.

Limited visitation can occur in the Brewster Health Center and Assisted Living. Please see the opening plan on our website for more details for how visits are conducted. Visitation in either of these locations is subject to change based on our published plan available on our website. We will let you know if we change our protocols. For **Brewster Health Center** visits, please [sign up here](#). Keep in mind the visits will only be for 50 minutes (not an hour) to allow for cleaning between visits. For **Assisted Living Outdoor** visits, please [sign up here](#). For **Assisted Living Indoor** visits, please [sign up here](#). Please call Maxine at 274-3374 if you do not have a computer and need assistance signing up.

I am excited for our families and loved ones to return to campus. We have been looking forward to this day for months. However, I must express a word of caution. Opening to visitors does invite additional risk to our Brewster community. As I have worked with many residents over the past few months seeking exceptions to our visitation policy, it has become apparent to me that we all believe our family and loved ones are the most careful people in the world and cannot possibly be a risk of transmitting COVID-19 to us, nor us to them. The simple truth is that a person getting or transmitting a virus has nothing to do with their intellect, their skills, or their moral character.

We know that interventions such as mask wearing and avoiding crowds does reduce the risk of getting sick, but no intervention is 100% effective. Many of the positive cases we have witnessed were transmitted from family member to family member. Visiting family does present risk in the world of COVID-19. We can determine these risks are an acceptable price to pay in order to be close to loved ones. We can choose to accept these risks to engage in a life worth living, but we should not forget they are present.

We must be diligent in our practices to protect ourselves and others. This is why I ask visitors to wear their face coverings even when they are in your home. This is why I ask those who travel from a state that Kansas has identified for travel restrictions to wait for the restrictions to be lifted before coming to Brewster. Finally, this why I ask you not to host guests overnight in your Brewster home.

I look forward to celebrating with you on the day these interventions are no longer needed. Until then, I am excited see you and to learn to live again in this time of COVID.

Joe Ewert
President and CEO

BREWSTER COMMON SPACES PROTOCOLS

UPDATED 7.24.2020

As we open more of our common areas, please keep in mind that we must continue to be very careful to follow COVID-19 guidelines. There are specific protocols listed under each section.

ART STUDIOS

Beginning Monday, July 27, Brewster art studios (Redwood Penthouse Art Studio and The Evergreens Art Studio) will once again offer unscheduled OPEN STUDIO time. This means you can drop by the studios to work on a project without a reservation or a staff member present. If you have never worked in one of the art studios, we asked that you schedule an orientation time with Kris Saia, Creative Arts Coordinator, before your first visit. You can reach her at 274-3317.

Protocols:

- Space is limited to maintain social distancing
- Redwood Penthouse Art Studio is limited to eight people
- The Evergreens Art Studio is limited to three people
- If you notice that the studio is already at maximum capacity, we ask that you NOT enter
- Residents will be required to sign in and out
- Residents will be required to complete "Open Studio" check list
- Residents will be mindful about sharing tools and supplies, and it will be their responsibility to place the tools in the bin so Kris can disinfect properly.
- Residents will be required to wear a mask over nose and mouth
- Residents will use hand sanitizer
- Residents will maintain six feet social distance from one another

If you need to reserve a 1:1 time with Kris, or have questions, please call Kris Saia at 274-3317

WELLNESS CENTERS

Beginning Monday, July 27, Brewster wellness centers (Winchell Wellness Center on Main Street and The Evergreens Wellness Center) will now be OPEN to self-directed use. This means you can drop by the wellness centers without a reservation or staff person present.

Protocols:

- Residents must maintain social distancing of six feet
- Masks must be worn
- Equipment must be wiped down by resident both before and after use

EXERCISE CLASS SCHEDULE and PROTOCOLS

The exercise class schedule and protocols will remain unchanged.

- Please call Julie Schmanke, Wellness Specialist, at 274-3313 to reserve your spot
- Video Exercise classes on BPTV 1960 will continue as scheduled

VESPERS

Beginning Sunday, August 2, Vespers services in the Main Street Chapel will be at 4:00 pm (one service only). Chaplain Roger will review the following protocols at the beginning of each service.

Protocols:

- Services will be limited to 20 people per service
- No reservations are required. Please be mindful of limited space and capacity
- Upon entering Chapel, you will be required to use hand sanitizer, stay six feet apart from others, and wear a mask the entire time.
- Communion will be a pre-packaged wafer and juice that you can pick up as you enter the Chapel
- Hymnals will not be used at this time
- The Chapel will be sanitized after the service

If you have questions, please call Chaplain Roger Jackson at 274-3349.

A recorded version of Vespers can be viewed Wednesdays at 10:30 am on BPTV 1960.

ACTIVITIES

Small, indoor Independent Living activities will continue. Check the Weekly Bulletin that is delivered to your door for details.

Protocols:

- Indoor activities are limited to 15 -20 residents, when social distancing can be practiced
- Outdoor activities are limited to 20 - 30 residents, when social distancing can be practiced
- Residents must maintain social distancing of six feet
- Masks are required

For questions please call Jamie Fritz, Activities Coordinator, at 274-3398.