



August 22, 2020

Dear Residents and Family,

We have now received results for all residents and staff who were tested this week. No additional staff or residents tested positive for COVID-19. All Independent Living residents and Assisted Living residents who were tested were negative for the virus. We **will not** return to additional restrictions in **Independent Living** at this time.

We will be testing all Brewster Health Center residents and staff weekly until such time we can once more report that we have zero residents who test positive for COVID-19. **Brewster Health Center and Assisted Living will remain in the Red Phase for the time being.** Please see our website for details on the Red Phase.

The three residents who tested positive continue to be cared for on the COVID neighborhood, which we created several months ago in anticipation this virus would eventually spread to a Brewster resident. This neighborhood is staffed by a group of superb healthcare professionals who are caring only for these three residents. To assure the fewest number of people are exposed as possible, the entire team consists of only four individuals. These four individuals work 12 hours on and 12 hours off, for seven days straight. This work is demanding. They are the residents' physical, social, recreational, and emotional support. They do all of this while wearing the full accoutrement of protective equipment, which compounds the fatiguing nature of the work. Additional professionals provide insights and directions through telecommunication such as video calling, but the four COVID caregivers are the hands that serve. Our dedicated COVID caregivers are being housed in the Birchwood 4 Cottage to provide them a place close to their duty station to rest and remain focused on the task of caring for their residents. Some of these dedicated caregivers volunteered for this duty months ago, before we had N95 masks or gowns and face shields to protect them. It takes a very special person to do what they are doing. I am so very proud of them -- so very proud.

We learned valuable lessons from this cycle of testing that I hope to share with you in an upcoming **Cup of Joe** video which will air on BPTV 1960 in a few weeks. For now, I would invite you to join me in counting our many blessings here at Brewster, and have a restful weekend.

Joe Ewert
President and CEO