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*The following article regarding campus restrictions was written for the October 2020 issue of the Brewster News. To read the entire issue, please click on the link: [Brewster News October 2020](#)*

## **GUESTS, MEETING SPACES, AND MASKS**

BY JOE EWERT, PRESIDENT AND CEO

We have been blessed to have experienced only a small number of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 relative to other organizations our size, but we are not immune to catching and spreading the virus, or to the consequences of it. We continue to identify individuals who test positive for the virus, and we will continue to do so for years to come. However, we gain more experience with each potential and actual positive case we identify, contact trace, and test. With each case, we are learning how to live in the time of COVID-19.

As I write this, the Brewster campus opened to visitors exactly three months ago. Since then, we have not observed a visitor transmitting the virus to a resident or a staff person. It is time now to open a little further and regain some of the activities we have foregone these past several months due to the virus.

Beginning Sunday, October 4, guests will once again be welcome to stay in resident homes overnight. All existing rules and requirements apply. In our observation, the period of time that one is exposed to the virus is correlated to the chances of contracting the virus from a carrier. Masks and face coverings are very important tools in preventing transmission of the virus, however, they do not provide absolute protection. Please assure that you and your guests wear face coverings during your visits in addition to maintaining some social distance. Visit in fresh air as much as possible. It is highly recommended residents not house multiple overnight guests at one time.

Also starting October 4, residents may reserve public meeting rooms at Brewster for private events such as birthdays, family gatherings, meetings and other small gatherings. To reserve a room please contact the Help Desk at 274-3399. Group sizes are limited to 25 by Shawnee County. Groups should not exceed the number of individuals who can social distance within the space. Due to requirements that all guests wear face coverings at all times, please refrain from serving food or refreshments at group meetings or gatherings.

Cloth face coverings have helped us tremendously at a time when proper masks were unavailable. However, N95 and KN95 masks are superior in the protection they provide to the wearer. We have secured enough KN95 masks to offer them to Independent Living residents at \$3.50 per mask. These masks will be available at the Redwood Information Center and The Evergreens Information Center. They will be available to residents only and charges can be placed directly on your monthly bill. I highly recommend residents use the KN95 masks, especially if attending highly trafficked areas such as stores or attending gatherings.