



December 11, 2020

COVID-19 Intervention Update

We have had three consecutive cycles of testing in Brewster Health Center with no new positive residents or spread among staff of COVID-19. We currently have three active cases of COVID-19 among Independent Living residents. We have zero cases in Assisted Living.

The transmission of COVID-19 in Topeka appears to have peaked and I am not seeing a new spike following Thanksgiving. The daily number of new cases however remains very high. Additionally, the cases we are identifying within Independent Living have demonstrated the need for, and the effectiveness of, the current interventions requiring self-quarantine after exposure to those outside Brewster Place.

I'd like to share two examples we've experienced recently.

- An Independent Living resident was accompanied to a medical appointment by a family member. This resident did not understand the self-quarantining process and continued to engage in the amenities at Brewster. This resident demonstrated symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. An additional nine people were exposed. If any of these nine people test positive, there will be additional numbers exposed, potentially more infected, and it goes on and on.
- An Independent Living resident conducted their own personal shopping and self-quarantined upon return to Brewster. While on quarantine this resident developed symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. Due to quarantining, this resident had zero contacts and exposed no others.

*The residents in both these examples have either recovered or are recovering well.

We are continuously reviewing these policies in attempt to sharpen them to allow flexibilities where possible while maintaining safety within our Brewster environment. **The current interventions will continue through the remainder of December.**

Vaccine

We are watching the developments with the vaccine and vaccination process very closely. Right now we have more questions than answers.

Here is what we know:

- The state of Kansas will be allocated doses as they are available. The state will allocate those to population groups as they see fit. Publicly reported numbers of allocated dosages expected for Kansas are very small relative to the number of health care workers and nursing home residents in the state.
- The federal government has contracted with CVS and Walgreens to conduct the vaccination in Brewster Health Center.
- Brewster is registered with CVS to coordinate an onsite vaccination clinic for Brewster Health Center.
- At this time there are no announced plans for CVS to conduct clinics for Independent Living or Assisted Living settings.

We have posted a letter from the **American Medical Director Association** to our website. Please see this letter for more information on the vaccine, its safety, efficacy, and approval process. I encourage everyone to speak with their physician regarding your personal choice in receiving the vaccine and whether they have any knowledge of whether they will be able to provide the vaccine to you at some point.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 274-3392 if you have any questions or have other feedback. Thank you.

Brewster operations are in the following categories:

- **Brewster Health Center** is in the Yellow Phase.
- **Assisted Living** is in the Red Phase.

Joe Ewert
President and CEO