



August 25, 2021

Dear Residents and Family,

We currently have four independent living residents with active cases of COVID-19. There are zero residents in the Health Center or Assisted Living with COVID-19. After going months without any infections, we have had a total of 14 independent living residents test positive since July 27. I was notified yesterday morning that one of our residents passed away on Monday after admitting to the hospital with COVID-19.

The number of new cases in Shawnee County as well as the county positivity rate has increased to 9.9%. The Shawnee County community spread is currently rated as “substantial.”

The pace of new infections being identified at Brewster slowed last week; however we do anticipate identifying new positive cases as long as the broader Topeka community continues with high levels of viral transmission. The mission for our community now is to minimize the transmission on campus. This requires everyone’s help. Please monitor yourself for symptoms. COVID-19 is easily mistaken for general muscle soreness or fatigue and other cold and allergy like symptoms. **PLEASE STAY HOME if you feel any signs or symptoms of illness even if small!** It is far better to stay home one day, receive a quick test and learn it’s allergies than to potentially spread the virus to several others. Give our Community Nursing team a call if you have symptoms 274-3342. We will continue with the current interventions of masking and social distancing in dining rooms through the month of September.

Shawnee County released a memo directing area vaccine providers to administer booster shots to those with high risk for serious illness or death from the virus. The memo specifically details that residents of communities such as Brewster are not, by default, high risk. This means Brewster will not be able to conduct a campus wide booster clinic. However, as individuals, you likely qualify to receive the booster at an area pharmacy. I recommend speaking with your physician about the booster and seeking one from a local pharmacy.

President Biden has directed the federal agency on Health and Human Services to promulgate a rule requiring all staff at certified nursing homes be vaccinated. It is unknown when this rule will be written or when it will take effect. Brewster will be included in this mandate.

Joe Ewert  
President and CEO