



August 10, 2021

Dear Residents and Family,

We currently have seven independent living residents with active cases of COVID-19. There are zero residents in the Health Center or Assisted Living with COVID-19. Outside of the married couples currently infected, we can connect two of the positive cases so far to each other through campus spread.

The number of new cases in Shawnee County as well as the county positivity rate has increased from 7.2% to 8.4%. The Shawnee County community spread is currently rated as “substantial.” More worrisome than the high number of new cases is the high trend in incidence which measures the rate at which the virus is spreading.

We are not locking down our campus, nor are we limiting resident movement in the broader community as we did last year. Accordingly, we anticipate identifying new positive cases among our independent living community as long as the broader Topeka community is experiencing high levels of viral transmission. The mission for our community now is to minimize the transmission between us here on campus. To that end we are modifying our interventions within independent living.

Beginning Wednesday, August 11 the dining rooms will require unrelated diners to socially distance. We ask not more than two individuals sit at any one table. In person dining will be restricted to residents only.

We are placing large group activities where social distancing cannot be achieved on hold. Small group activities and organic resident gatherings will continue but masks must be worn at all times. We ask that any activities involving eating and drinking be conducted outdoors with social distancing.

The Brewster Bean will close until September 1.

We will update our interventions based on the presence or absence of active cases on campus, the county positivity rate and the county trend in incidence.

We conduct contact tracing and testing for every positive case we identify on campus. We use the CDC guidelines for contact tracing which includes close personal contact of less than 6 feet distance for a period of 10 minutes or longer. Those identified at risk through this process are offered testing conducted by the Brewster team at no cost to the resident. COVID-19 testing is available here at Brewster outside the contact tracing process for a small fee. Residents may request testing through Brewster at 274-3342.

Please wash your hands frequently and most importantly 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 and call our community health nurse at 785-274-3342 - AND YOUR DOCTOR** so we can assure the proper care and organizational response.

Thank you.

Joe Ewert
President and CEO