



August 6, 2021

Dear Residents and Family,

This week three independent living residents tested positive for COVID-19. This takes our current case numbers up to six. All residents are fully vaccinated. We are encouraged with the recovery of the earlier cases. We continue to watch carefully for others with symptoms.

We completed two rounds of mass testing in the Health Center which included both residents and staff. No positive cases were identified. There continue to be zero active cases in the Health Center. As a reminder, unvaccinated staff in these areas are tested weekly.

We do not yet have enough post vaccination experience with COVID-19 to draw conclusions about the spread and the lethality of the virus at this point. We do have national data that suggests the vaccines are highly effective at protecting against the serious illness and death the pandemic threatened last year. We should take courage in this and continue to live our best lives. We should continue to see our family and loved ones and we should continue making plans for the future. Unfortunately, severe illness and death are not the only devastating consequences of the virus. The Brewster Assisted Living and Health Center are strictly governed by various entities of local, state, and federal authorities which have mandated severe restrictions on visitation when any positive case is identified in the licensed areas. We witnessed first-hand the consequences of restricted visitation last year and the loss of closeness with family and loved ones. We cannot repeat that experience. Our Assisted Living and Brewster Health Center residents need their families. To do this we must work to hold the number of positive cases down to the absolute minimum.

If you have the opportunity to meet with friends and family outdoors, please do so. If meeting indoors please wear a mask and assure your guests do as well. We will continue wearing masks during this period of high community transmission in Shawnee County. 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** so we can assure the proper care and organizational response. Thank you.

Joe Ewert
President and CEO