



December 29, 2021

Dear Residents and Family,

We currently have zero residents with COVID-19 on campus. We have identified five staff with COVID-19 over the last week. Each of these individuals was exposed to the virus outside of Brewster. We have identified a number of others who have had contact with a positive case outside of campus. The high number of unique cases of exposure indicates the next wave of the virus is traveling through Topeka rapidly.

With this in mind, I request all residents, staff, and guests to wear a face covering whenever in the commons spaces inside Brewster until further notice. Dining and activities will continue, but I recommend maintaining distance when possible while engaging in your social activity. As always, scrupulous and frequent hand washing goes a long way in reducing the spread of viruses.

The authorities are stating the Omicron variant is the dominant strain of COVID-19 currently in the United States. Reporting is mixed on the specific efficacy of the vaccines against Omicron, however, I am seeing reporting that a current booster shot in addition to original vaccination over six months old shows a nearly threefold increase in protection. All residents in Brewster Health Center and Assisted Living have had opportunities to receive the booster onsite, and many Independent Living residents have reported easily obtaining the booster from their favored pharmacy. If you have not already received your booster, it is highly recommended. Brewster will provide free transportation for Independent Living residents who need assistance with transportation to receive your booster shot.

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, and learn it's allergies than to potentially spread the virus to several others. Give our Community Nursing team a call at 274-3342 if you have symptoms and wish to speak with a nurse.

Hopefully this wave will pass through Topeka quickly. Thank you for your support during this time.

Joe Ewert
President and CEO