



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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To Our Residents and Family Members:

Is it over yet?! I am sure you all feel just the same as I do at this point – I just want to get back to normal. The unfortunate truth is we really don't know when that will be and what the new normal will look like. We do know that spring is here, summer is coming, and the fresh air will be good for all of us!

As we approach those warm, sunny days I encourage our residents to take advantage of the beautiful outside sitting areas and walking paths we have been blessed with. However, please adhere to the areas which have been designated by hallway as appropriate for your safety and follow the guidelines of social distancing by maintaining a six (6) foot distance between yourself and other residents.

- **Residents**, please make sure you notify someone when you choose to go out to enjoy the fresh air and keep a six (6) foot distance between yourself and other residents.
- **Family members**, please remember that the visitation restrictions remain, even in the outdoors. You and your family pets must refrain from visiting in the open areas outside. In fact, you may wave to your family member through a closed window, but you must refrain from visiting through an open window as it places your loved one at the same risk as any face-to-face exposure.

Mother's Day has been one of our most celebrated and coveted holidays, and it breaks my heart to know that we will not be able to celebrate with our mothers and grandmothers in person this year. I will be calling my own mother via FaceTime in place of our usual Sunday morning church visit and brunch. It's the best we can all do at this time.

Since we are limited in the number of FaceTime visits we can conduct in one day, I encourage you to call the Life Enrichment Department as soon as possible to schedule your visit. FaceTime visits will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes on Mother's Day weekend so we can accommodate more requests. If at all possible, please schedule your visit prior to the weekend.

Flowers are always a favorite, but you may also choose to put your creative abilities to task this weekend with a closed window visit, delivery of a special meal, a CD recording of Mother's Day messages and memories, picture albums, handmade cards or a handmade craft. Let us know how we can help you make this day special.

I want you to know we are working hard to reduce the risk of staff introducing COVID-19 to our facility, as they are the only individuals who leave the facility and return every day to care for our residents. In compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the following measures have been implemented at Brookside Care Center:

- Staff members may not work a second job while employed by Brookside Care Center to avoid potential cross-contamination.

- All staff members are screened for symptoms and their temperatures are taken prior to entering the building. If symptoms are present, they are asked to leave immediately and contact their physician.
- Staff members have been assigned to specific hallways and are not shared between hallways; this includes nursing, dietary, activities and housekeeping staff.
- All staff members are required to wear face masks while in the facility. They must adhere to social distancing requirements during break periods and lunch and cannot linger in the building before and after their shifts.

In addition to all these internal measures, our staff members are bound to honor the "Safer at Home" order implemented by Governor Tony Evers, as well as the travel restrictions implemented for all Kenosha County employees by County Executive Jim Kreuser. As I continue to emphasize, we have been diligent in our efforts to prevent this virus from invading our facility.

As you are aware, Governor Tony Evers extended the "Safer at Home" order through Memorial Day. It is set to expire at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26. **Although businesses will begin opening with restrictions, at this time skilled nursing facilities in the State of Wisconsin are not easing visitation restrictions.** COVID-19 outbreaks continue in skilled nursing facilities across the nation, and it is our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our very vulnerable populations. We will be communicating any changes in this executive order from our Governor and our County Executive as soon as we are informed.

I am sure you are feeling an information overload as you read this; however, you deserve regular and timely communication during this COVID-19 pandemic period. We are committed to providing you with information regarding changes to our policies and procedures; new guidance, regulations and restrictions; confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our facility, and any other information which is relevant to the health and safety of our residents as it is released. Understanding that we all prefer different means of communication, we will present updates in the form of;

- Mailings,
- E-mails,
- Personal phone calls,
- Automated phone messages (a recorded message which is sent from us directly to your phone), and,
- A call-in message line for updates 262-653-3849.

I certainly hope that my next communication will include relaxing some of our restrictions, but I cannot promise that. I can promise that we will continue to work hard to keep everyone safe and healthy. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. **We are BROOKSIDE STRONG!**

With gratitude,



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