



October 9, 2020

Hi all—

Lots of great news to share! The nursing home had back to back all negative COVID tests for both staff and residents. We tested again yesterday and am praying for the same result. If the 10/8 testing is negative again, the nursing home will be out of outbreak status on 10/13 which will allow our residents to return to beauty shop visits, outdoor visits (virtual and window are still available) and an increased number participating in activities together.

Meadow Wood Apartments had a back to back round of all negative testing with the exception of one test in the last round which required retesting due to a sample issue with the lab. As soon as that test is back and it is negative (Saturday or Sunday?) Meadow Wood will be of outbreak status.

Forest Glen came out of outbreak status on Wednesday.

To this time, no program at GSS had any positive residents or tenants. The rule of gaining outbreak status for one positive staff person is challenging for staff, residents and tenants. It is a blessing when we clear the outbreak period for everyone.

Currently, the Outagamie county positivity rate for COVID-19 is 16%. Our hospitals and health care systems are in crisis due to the high population of COVID-19 in their care, staffing shortages (due to COVID-19 illness or exposure) and limited PPE. Many of our residents use health care systems in Green Bay, which is Brown county. Brown county's positivity rate is 17%. Shawano county, another county GSS serves is at 22% positivity. Please do not plan on taking our residents and tenants out into health care environments where COVID-19 is very prevalent. It is recommended that visits occur when the positivity threshold is less than 5%. Please remember that we can complete many services in house (x-ray, ultrasounds, EKG's, labs, among others) in house. Many vendors (optical, hearing aids, prosthetic care) can complete repairs or adjustments without the resident or tenant leaving their homes.

Every time one of our folks go out, there is a concern of bringing COVID back to our safe environment. Additionally, everyone is aware that PPE is difficult to come by and very expensive. Each time a resident leaves their home and ventures to a medical environment, they must complete a 14-day quarantine. Staff must don full PPE to serve these residents (a mask, a gown, a face shield and gloves). You can imagine the amount of PPE that is used by staff for a single resident or tenant that leaves the facility.

COVID-19 will not last forever....it is only a matter of time before we are on the other side of this. Please help us stay safe until we get to that point. Think outside the box to have health care needs met. Virtual visits, having labs and testing completed in house are only a couple examples.

We are currently working on creating indoor visitation areas. The nursing home and Meadow Wood construction will start next week. Forest Glen and the Inn will be next. Birch Way will use either the

Meadow Wood or Nursing Home visitation area. Our goal is to have safe environments ready by the time the weather turns a bit colder. Indoor visits will still require social distancing (at least six feet), masks and some sort of barrier with an air filtration system. Watch the website for update info as available.

As always, call the COVID phone for updates or for visit requests, etc. That phone number is 920-228-1888. The phone is monitored seven days a week from 8 am to 5 pm. Requests made on the weekend for the next week's visits will not be responded to until Monday when staff are available to schedule.

As always, please continue to pray for Good Shepherd and our nation.

Deb Captain