

October 27, 2022

Dear Villagers, Team Members, Family & Friends,

Today, we received confirmation that one individual associated with Brewster Village tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently isolating and recovering at home in accordance with CDC guidelines. Our infection preventionist has conducted contact tracing and we are pleased to announce that no villagers were affected. However, we do continue to test based on contact tracing.

As a reminder, recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services provided updates for nursing facilities in light of recent changes made at the CDC level. Overall, these changes are welcome and appropriate at this stage of the pandemic. While we have and will always place a significant emphasis on the importance of infection control, certain pandemic-era approaches will begin to change. More information will be provided in the future, but the first notable change surrounds scaling back routine testing for employees in favor of a testing strategy based on signs and symptoms of respiratory illness, or in response to contact tracing efforts in the event of an outbreak. Additionally, provisions are in place to be able to move away from the mandatory use of universal personal protective equipment based upon the county's community transmission rate. More updates specifically for visitors will be provided to you at the time it is permissible to implement. We continue to follow CDC and CMS guidelines to help reduce the spread and impact of the COVID – 19 variants. Our current practices are:

- Screening villagers, team members and visitors for symptoms
- Mandatory face masks for all team members and visitors
- Visits with villagers to be in their room or designated visitation room. (Café area is not an appropriate place to visit)
- Proper hand hygiene
- Encouraging continued physical distancing

You will receive notification of any additional positive cases identified, and if none are identified, at least one more letter informing you so.

Sincerely,

Taya Walk, LNHA
Administrator