

## WEEKLY UPDATE

**September 25, 2020**

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

We are happy to report that, as of today, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our facility. There were two positive employees at the beginning of May and have since recovered. There have been no other confirmed cases of COVID -19 for residents or staff.

The Indiana State Department of Health has issued guidance on providing outdoor visitation (weather permitting). If you are interested in partaking in scheduled visits with your loved one, please call the front desk to make your reservation. We are requiring you to wear a face mask during the entire duration of the visit. Please be aware that it is required that visitors keep their nose and mouth covered while wearing the face covering. We ask that you do not hug or kiss and please remember to engage in social distancing. Failure to comply with these expectations could result in suspended visitation. There have been numerous instances where families have had to be reminded to keep face masks/coverings in place. The screening process is a vital part of our process for COVID-19 prevention.

Should the heat and humidity impact the outdoor visitation, we have designed a designated area in our sun room with a table and plexiglass divider. The front desk receptionist will direct you during your scheduled visitation. Please be advised that the visits are limited to 30 minutes and is limited to 2 people at a time. Please do not bring in items during your visiting time and expect them to be given directly to the resident. The facility holds onto items for a period of 48-hours so it is critical to know if there are items that require refrigeration.

As the number of coronavirus cases throughout the country are rapidly changing, we continue to practice the enhanced safety precautions that are known to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as only essential personnel are allowed inside the facility and we screen them for signs and symptoms of illness prior to entering. Our residents are continually monitored and staff is using PPE as recommended by the CDC. Staff is frequently reminded and encouraged to practice social distancing and to use hand sanitizer and frequently wash their hands when they are in the facility and out in the community. We ask them not to report to work if they have symptoms of illness.

Please also remember what you can do to help stop community spread of this virus, such as practicing hand hygiene, social distancing, practicing proper cough etiquette, using face masks, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily.

Please continue to check our website for weekly updates as well as notification of new cases. As always, we will notify you if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility and we will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

Please be aware that additional information will be forthcoming regarding the new mandate from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as it relates to visitation regulations in the nursing home.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly at Bell Tower Health & Rehabilitation Center at 574-406-6600

Sincerely,

*Marti Carmean*

Administrator