

July 26, 2022

To: Residents, Families, and Friends of Homestead Health Center

WOW! Could summer be any more intense!! I am looking forward to this weekend as we finally get a short reprieve from the 100+ temperatures....

There is not allot of 'news' coming out of Homestead.

We have been COVID free now for a month. Transmission rates in Kansas and across the nation are on high alert. The only places in Kansas where transmission rates are in the green are those counties with more cows than people!

PLEASE, PLEASE be smart going places involving large gatherings. The symptoms mimic allergies or a summer cold. Some are not having anything but a scratchy throat or slight headache. Wear a mask and use hand sanitizer often. Keep your distance.

If you taking a resident out of the facility, be mindful of where and who will be interacting with the resident. Those residents leaving for outings will be test with a rapid test on day three and day six or upon acute symptoms.

The licensed bed count for Homestead changed from sixty-two to fifty-one on July 1, 2022. This is in conjunction with the plan to have single-occupancy rooms throughout the facility. This will allow us to utilize our staff without the constant need for agency.

Everyone is ready to be over the pandemic and find the 'new normal'. We are focusing on booster shots for staff members. Residents are 98% up-to-date (vaccines and two boosters). The goal is to have 50% of our staff 'up-to-date' by the end of September. All staff with exception of seven are fully vaccinated. Those seven have exemptions. Currently, all staff and other direct care personnel are testing every day. This has been especially helpful in identifying asymptomatic individuals. Be assured, Homestead staff and management are doing all possible to keep residents safe and healthy.

Thank you to everyone praying for our facility and staff. There is so much going on outside of the building in everyone's life. The economy doesn't help, and the unrest throughout the nation and world give way to worry.

We are appreciative of your support. Be safe. Be smart. Be cool!

Thank you, Elizabeth (Beth) Howarth