

Feb 22, 2022

To our residents, families, and friends

Welcome to a very crazy February! I have all my clothes out, summer, winter, fall, spring, because I have had a chance to wear all of them during the first 21 days of February! How great is that!!

Since it has been a few weeks since my last update, I have several topics to cover.

1. **Vaccine Status:** As you are aware, CMS vaccine mandate went back into effect for Kansas with a February 13 and March 13 deadlines for staff vaccinations. To date, Homestead approved four religious exemptions, two medical exemptions, and all staff have had at least one vaccination. There are ten staff members needing a second vaccine shot. We are not tracking boosters at this time, but will begin after the March 13th deadline.
2. **COVID Status:** Currently, there is one resident testing positive for COVID from community exposure. Homestead conducted lab PCR test last weekend on all residents. All but the one resident came back negative. Currently, we do not have any staff out with COVID symptoms. We are truly blessed!
3. **VISITATION:** No changes in visitation. Thank you for being aware of acute symptoms and not coming into the facility if you are sick. This, in itself, helps Homestead to remain COVID free.

Staff are working diligently to ensure all our residents are provided the utmost of compassionate, quality care. Please remember them in prayer. Many have kids. With schools, the weather and COVID can be the cause of many issues. Our staff experience the same things with families, finances, and health each of us experience. The list is endless. When you see one of the staff, thank them for coming to work and being committed. I promise it will go a long way to bolster their well-being.

In seven days, we will have two months of this year behind us. It will be two years since March 13, 2020 and COVID entered our world here at Homestead by means of a global pandemic. So much has happened, and many days it seems we will never see the end, yet we will. The storms weathered over the past two years are behind us. We look with anticipation at the positive events of the year to come.

Have a safe, warm week. Keep all those clothes handy. I have a feeling you will be needing them for a few more weeks to come!!!

Blessings,

Elizabeth (Beth) Howarth, Administrator