

As infection rates continue to climb across the state, The Baptist Home has not been left unaffected. As of October 19, we have become aware that one of our residents at **The Baptist Home-Ozark** has tested *positive* for COVID-19. Since September 29, we have had a total of 39 total positive cases at The Baptist Home-Chillicothe, involving multiple residents and staff. Thankfully, most of the cases on our Chillicothe campus have been mild with 20 now reported as having recovered.

We are following Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines as we manage our response. All staff and residents at the campus are being tested and closely monitored for symptoms. All nursing staff caring for the resident must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to include N-95 mask, face shield, gloves, and a gown.

All employees at The Baptist Home have been taking proactive measures to protect residents from infection by maintaining social distancing, practicing frequent handwashing, cleaning all hard surfaces regularly with disinfectant and limiting interactions as much as possible. Each campus has isolation area plans and PPE reserves.

The Baptist Home's Corporate Office has been monitoring the COVID-19 situation since the first reports came out in early January. The Baptist Home issued its first response in early March by recommending that all visitors and staff stay home if they were sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms. An updated sick leave policy that exceeds State and Federal requirements was put into place to allow staff more flexibility to miss work in order to seek treatment. Campus administrators have attended training on COVID-19 best practices as recommended by the CDC and DHSS to minimize the spread of the virus. On March 16, further restrictive action was taken to limit as much face-to-face resident contact as possible by closing all campuses to outside visitors and limiting campus entrances. Staff screening was put into place on each campus and social distancing as recommended by the CDC was implemented to prevent virus transmission.

To Summarize action currently implemented on our **Chillicothe and Ozark campuses**:

- All residents and staff have been tested.
- Nursing staff are monitoring temperature and oxygen levels of all residents three times a day.
- Residents are currently quarantined to their rooms.
- A COVID isolation ward has been established.
- All staff are utilizing complete PPE precautions – gowns, gloves, face shields, and N95 face masks.
- Effective immediately, the campus will be on lockdown. However, compassionate care visits will be allowed for end-of-life visits and pastoral care. For visitors that meet the compassionate care guidelines, full PPE attire must be worn at all times during the visit.
- We will provide any further information via our website which we will update regularly.
- For further information, please contact Becky Barton, Communications Director, (573)546-2709.

The fact that The Baptist Home experienced no COVID-19 cases for seven months is nothing short of a miracle. We are committed to remain vigilant in our efforts to keep our residents and staff safe from infection. We ask that you join us in continued prayer for our community of residents, their families, and our caregivers.