

Integrity ♦ Passion ♦ Excellence ♦ Respect

08/03/2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

In our ongoing communication with you during the COVID-19 pandemic, **Bland Nursing and Rehab Center** continues to issue communication regarding the status of our residents and employees. On 07/30/20, we completed another round of COVID-19 testing in effort to progress through the phased reopening stages per CMS guidelines. On 08/02/20, we were notified by our third-party laboratory that one of our employee's tested positive for COVID-19. The employee has since been removed from work and will not be permitted to return until two consecutive negative test results are received. The number of positive confirmations at our Center is one employee and zero residents. **Bland Nursing and Rehab Center** will be proactively testing additional residents and employees in the upcoming days and will provide additional updates when the test results are available.

The safety and wellbeing of our residents continues to be our top priority. We are doing everything we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 within **Bland Nursing and Rehab Center**, including staying in very close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps under current circumstances.

We are taking steps based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for expanded list of symptoms
- Restricting visitation and entry of people to the building
- Proactively testing staff and residents for COVID-19 based on current protocols
- Postponing communal activities
- Increasing PPE par levels
- And CDC/CMS recommendations

Due to government privacy requirements, we cannot divulge specific information about the individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, unless they are your family member and you have the necessary permissions to receive such information. We know you are concerned about your loved one, but it is crucial that we restrict visitation to reduce the spread of this virus to others. We will contact you directly if your loved one is suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.

We also understand that connecting with family members is incredibly important to our residents. Additionally, we encourage family members to connect with their loved ones through video chat, calling or facetime. We can also arrange for window visits. Please let us know by contacting Anna Laura May at AnnaLaura.May@kissito.org or calling Anna Laura at 276-688-4141 should we need to schedule this for you.

We need your help in battling COVID-19. Please visit the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) to learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community.

This is a difficult time for everyone. We will continue to provide you with updates. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus.

We know that you may have questions and we encourage you to contact our center. Please call us at 276-688-4141, email us at AnnaLaura.May@kissito.org, or visit our website www.kissito.org for updates on the status of your loved one.

Sincerely,

Anna Laura May

Chief Administrative Officer