

01/24/21

To Our Residents and Family Members:

In our ongoing communication with you during the COVID-19 pandemic, **The Brian Center Alleghany** continues to issue communication regarding the status of our residents and employees. **The Brian Center Alleghany** continues to test all employees and residents for COVID-19 per CMS testing recommendations, and to help guide our decisions during the pandemic. On January 23, 2021, we received confirmation that one employee and one resident tested positive for COVID-19. This employee has been removed from work and will be self-quarantining for 14 days. Two negative results will be required prior to returning to work. The resident who tested positive has been relocated to our COVID unit where they will have dedicated staff providing care. **The Brian Center Alleghany** is pleased to announce that we recently had five residents recover from COVID-19. These residents have been moved back into the general population after receiving two consecutive negative test results. We continue to promote social distancing inside and outside of work and encourage all citizens to practice social distancing due to the correlation between community spread and facility spread, given that Alleghany County has been in the “red” shadings for County positivity rate over the past eight consecutive weeks. Alleghany County’s positivity rate currently sets at 34.3%. **The Brian Center Alleghany** will continue performing 100% testing two times per week until further notice. **Our team at The Brian Center Alleghany remain committed to the quality and safe care of our residents and as a result have postponed all visitation until further notice.** We will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes 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 **The Brian Center Alleghany**, 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 Maddie McClintic at Maddie.Mcclintic@kissito.org or calling Maddie at 540-862-3610 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 540-862-3610, email us at Halee.Simmons@kissito.org, or visit our website www.kissito.org for updates on the status of your loved one.

Sincerely,

Halee Simmons, Chief Administrative Officer