

03/08/21

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. **Bland Nursing and Rehab Center** recently participated in three COVID-19 vaccination clinics where we had great participation from residents and employees. We are pleased to share that **75%** of our employees and **83%** of our residents have been vaccinated. **Bland Nursing and Rehab Center** has not had any new positive COVID-19 infections in five consecutive weeks. Bland County's positivity rate continues to decline and currently sets at 4.10%, which is roughly a 1% decrease from last week, per the issuing of CMS county positivity rates. **Bland Nursing and Rehab Center** will continue testing for COVID-19 once per week as recommended by CMS, until the county positivity rate declines further. Additionally, we are in the planning stages of safely reopening for visitation and will share additional communication once those plans are finalized.

The safety and wellbeing of our residents continues to be our top priority. We are doing everything we can to prevent 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 Amy Phillips at Amy.Phillips@kissito.org or calling Amy at 276-688-4141 should we need to schedule this for you.

We need your continued 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 Amy.Phillips@kissito.org, or visit our website www.kissito.org for updates on the status of your loved one.

Sincerely,

Amy Phillips

Chief Administrative Officer