



Bethany St. Joseph Corporation Community Services

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June 18, 2020

Hello,

I am writing today regarding guidance we have received from La Crosse County Health Department related to tenants leaving the building. As you are likely aware, the surge in persons with Covid-19 in La Crosse has resulted in our county being a Severe Risk area. Presently, our BSJ communities remain closed to visitors and we have asked all of you to remain at home. This includes visits to family homes, birthday parties, restaurants, or anywhere out of the facility that is not medically necessary. Thank you to all of you who have stayed home and complied with this request and will do so as long as needed.

In a June 17th email, **La Crosse County advised that we immediately suspend all instances where tenants leave the facility for non-medical reasons.** Their correspondence indicates the potential for you to come into contact with the virus while in the community is very high. **I am asking anyone who plans to go off-site, even for a short time, to reconsider doing so.** If your family or friends are encouraging you to leave the facility, please feel free to guide them to the Director who can talk with them about the risk that is created every time someone goes offsite, not just for that person but for the entire facility.

This guidance is not forever. As our county's instances of new cases reduces, the guidance will relax. Meanwhile, we encourage you to consider window visits and video conferencing to connect with family and friends. Each of the Assisted Living communities has a laptop or iPad to assist you in make an electronic connection. These devices are also available for Skype visits with medical providers. Please talk with staff to make arrangements for technical support/assistance and equipment checkout to allow you to connect with people that are important to you and your medical providers.

Lastly, **thank you to everyone for wearing masks or fabric face covers** in the public areas of our communities. You are doing a great job! If you find it difficult to keep both your nose and mouth covered by your mask, please talk with staff who will help you secure a mask that fits properly.

Wishing you well,

Karen

Karen Sepich
Community Services Administrator

ADULT DAY CARE

MERIT Centre North - La Crosse
MERIT Centre South - La Crosse

ASSISTED LIVING

Laurel Manor - Onalaska
Mill St. Manor - West Salem
Prairie Home - Holmen
Salem Terrace - West Salem
Shelby Terrace - La Crosse

INDEPENDENT SENIOR HOUSING

Mill St. Manor - West Salem
OnaMain - Onalaska
OnaTerrace - Onalaska
Prairie Home - Holmen
Salem Terrace - West Salem
Welcome Home - La Crosse
Windsor Place - La Crosse