



3/10/2020

In light of recent events, King-Bruwaert House Directors wants to share what we have included in our efforts to keep the residents, staff and visitors safe from the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Senior Director of Resident Services, Karen Miller, and Director of Nursing, Brittany Munch, have been monitoring the Centers for Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and World Health Organization websites daily for updates on the COVID-19 outbreak.

Plans have already been enacted to increase the frequency of disinfection around the building, with special focus on high touch surfaces, such as hand railings, elevator buttons, doorknobs and light switches. Environmental Protection Agency approved disinfectants for Coronavirus strains are being used to decontaminate surfaces and equipment.

Increased amounts of personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, gloves and goggles have been ordered in preparation of an outbreak. Other supplies such as hand sanitizers, hand soaps, disinfectant wipes and even food supplies have been increased to ensure a safe stock in the event of a shortage.

Staffing plans in all departments are being developed in the event of an outbreak at KB House. KB is working hard to ensure there are enough frontline staff on duty to care for ill residents if an outbreak should occur.

Infection control policies are being reviewed with the staff, and staff are also being retrained on proper measures to take when working with a resident who is on droplet precautions (which would be implemented should any residents exhibit signs of COVID-19 infection). Hand hygiene education is being provided as well.

KB is coordinating with local Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the area and the local health department to support each other during this process.

Staff are being pre-screened for signs of infection (such as fever or respiratory symptoms) before they start their shift. Staff are being asked to remain home from work if they are exhibiting a fever and must remain home for 24 hours after the resolution of a fever without using medications to lower it. If the staff member is still exhibiting respiratory symptoms upon their return to work, they are required to wear a mask for the duration of their shift. Any staff who have traveled to or through high risk areas (China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Washington state, New York, California, Florida or have been on a cruise) recently and who are exhibiting symptoms are asked to remain home from work and contact their doctor immediately for evaluation and guidance.

Visiting restrictions have been updated per a new IDPH mandate. Effective immediately, no nonessential visitors are allowed in the building. In addition, anyone who exhibits respiratory symptoms, especially those who have traveled outside of the country or who may have had contact with anyone exposed to COVID-19 will also not be allowed to enter the building. Screening forms are being used for vendors and anyone from outside the facility that must make a visit to KB.

We encourage everyone to wash their hands frequently and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth. Please report any respiratory symptoms you experience including a fever to your doctor right away. Always call the doctor's office ahead of time in case special preparations need to be made ahead of your arrival.

Sincerely,

Terri Bowen
CEO