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August 4, 2021

Vista Woods strives to protect our residents, visitors, and staff from the ongoing spread of COVID-19 and its variants. The CMS COVID-19 positivity rate for Wapello County is back up to 11.7%. Many people continue to say that COVID is a hoax and not real. We are pleased to hear that many of our visitors are vaccinated, however that does not prevent spreading it. One positive case with either a resident or staff can close the facility to visitors for several days and perhaps weeks. That is why we ask everyone to respect our precautionary measures.

Those precautionary measures for visitors include:

- 1) Scheduling your visit at least 24 hours in advance.
- 2) Wearing a mask and sanitizing our hands upon entry.
- 3) Completing a screening process with each visit.
- 4) Socially distancing from others. If the person you are visiting is in a semi-private room, the visit will take place away from the roommate and in another area. This can be difficult for some residents and the staff who must assist.
- 5) Avoiding mealtimes because masks are not worn while eating.
- 6) Limiting the amount and length of visits to two visits/two visitors each week per resident.
- 7) Encouraging outside visits with larger groups. Residents may leave the facility to attend safe events. Family must sign the resident out in this situation.
- 8) Screening back out of the facility.

The above precautions are actual guidelines and regulations that we are required to follow. Some visitors have mentioned that some other facilities do not have these rules and they are ridiculous. Although each facilities policies may differ, they may not be following those regulations and we will continue to protect everyone in our facility the best we can. The past 18 months have been difficult for all of us and we appreciate your support. Hopefully the pandemic will end soon and we can return to normal. Until then, be safe.

*Ron Stursma, Administrator*