



2306 State St
Guthrie Center, IA 50115
PH 641-332-2204
Fax: 641-332-2982
www.TheNewHomestead.org

January 3, 2023

Dear Families and Friends,

We are writing to give you an update and further information on the COVID-19 bivalent booster and possible treatment options for a COVID-19 infection. The best chance to avoid infection, serious illness, hospitalization or death is to remain up-to-date with your COVID-19 vaccinations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends completing your initial vaccine series and receiving the bivalent vaccine to be considered current with the COVID-19 vaccine series. Facility staff, your personal care practitioner or a trusted pharmacist can provide information on the appropriate timing of COVID-19 vaccines, including the new bivalent booster. This new booster provides protection against not just the initial strain of the COVID-19 virus, but the newer variants that are now prevalent in our community.

It is our priority to provide the most protective environment for our residents; therefore, we encourage all individuals who have contact with residents to stay current with CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccines. Many of our residents and staff have chosen to receive the updated bivalent booster at recent in-house vaccine clinics. As the best protection comes with immunity provided through current vaccines, it is strongly recommended that anyone who visits our setting be vaccinated and have received the bivalent vaccine. We kindly ask that you and any individual who may visit our facility make special consideration to be up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines.

If you become infected, despite vaccination and diligent efforts to ward off the virus, there are now treatment options for those at high-risk of developing a more serious infection. Many of these treatments come in pill form and your practitioner should determine if treatment is appropriate for you. With treatment recommended to be started within five days of the onset of symptoms, we encourage you to work with your provider as quickly as possible. The National Institute of Health (NIH) updates treatment guidance regularly as more information is learned about this disease. Your practitioner stays current with treatment recommendations and will know the best course of action for you.

With other respiratory viruses prevalent in our communities, we also encourage you to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine. These vaccines are widely available at pharmacies and clinics at little to no cost. Additionally, washing your hands frequently with soap and water or using hand sanitizer is imperative to limiting transmission of all communicable illnesses. Wearing a mask while in large groups of people will also help prevent the spread of illness.



2306 State St
Guthrie Center, IA 50115
PH 641-332-2204
Fax: 641-332-2982
www.TheNewHomestead.org

If you have questions about COVID-19 management in our facility, feel free to reach out to the Infection Control Nurse, Administrator, Director of Nursing, your practitioner and/or the facility medical director. Please get immunized, wear your mask diligently, perform regular hand hygiene and of course do not visit the facility if you are sick.

Please have a healthy and happy new year. The best gift you can give yourself and your loved ones is to practice good infection prevention when interacting with others and get immunized against COVID-19 and influenza!

Sincerely,

Cheree Kafton, R.N.
Infection Control Nurse
The New Homestead