

## Buckner Retirement Services Weekly Update September 22, 2020

Dear Buckner Residents and Families,

Last week, Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) announced another step toward reuniting residents and families. We are continuing to work with the state on logistics around the announcement, but I want to review two specific topics with you: the essential caregiver designation and visitor updates for Assisted Living and Nursing.

Per the new orders, residents in Assisted Living, Memory Care and Nursing will be allowed to designate up to two essential family caregivers who will be provided necessary training to safely visit inside their apartment. We are in the process of working with residents and authorized emergency contacts to identify these essential caregivers.

All essential caregiver visits must be scheduled through our communities, and only one caregiver is allowed at a time. Caregivers must provide proof of a recent negative COVID-19 viral test result (either PCR or antigen tests) **and are responsible for securing their own test**. Antibody tests are not sufficient.

Essential caregivers will be required to wear the same level of PPE as our associates. Please contact your community for specifics regarding PPE regulations. In the meantime, I encourage all family to visit the following CDC informational page and watch the video: [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html).

The new state order also extends the ability for limited indoor visits using plexiglass barriers to Nursing residents (the previous order only permitted plexiglass barrier visits for Assisted Living and Memory Care). Communities must still apply for permission to begin plexiglass barrier visits for each care area, and guests are only permitted if the care level maintains 14 consecutive days without an active positive case.

The earliest the new rules can go into effect is September 24, but like the last HHSC announcements, it will require each of our communities to meet a list of regulations and submit an application demonstrating proof of compliance. Each community will reach out to residents and emergency contacts when they are approved to begin indoor visits, and guest reservations may be made on through the communities' websites.

For a detailed timeline regarding COVID-19 cases specific to your community, visit [Tinyurl.com/BucknerPandemic](https://tinyurl.com/BucknerPandemic). The following is a summary for quick reference:

### Community COVID-19 Active Case Summary (Residents & Associates)

	Active PUIs	Active Positive Cases
Baptist Retirement Community	0	0
Buckner Villas	0	0
Calder Woods	1	0

Parkway Place	1	6
Ventana	0	3
Westminster Place	0	7

Please continue to visit the BRS website ([www.BucknerRetirement.org](http://www.BucknerRetirement.org)) for our community case tracker and timelines, as well as our lists of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) –you may also call 855-754-3338 with questions at any time.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you, and God bless.

Sincerely,  
Charlie Wilson  
Senior Vice President  
Buckner Retirement Services