

expert contributor

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN MOVING A LOVED ONE INTO ASSISTED LIVING DURING COVID-19

BY REBECCA WILLIAMS, FACILITY DIRECTOR OF BARTON WOODS ASSISTED LIVING



Residents of Barton Woods enjoy Beach Day.

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC has affected nearly everyone’s daily lives. However, the senior community has been hit especially hard. While it may seem that group environments like assisted living facilities are not the right choice right now, for many, it’s still the best option.

To help make this important decision, here are a few questions to ask prior to moving your loved one into a senior community.

Has your facility had COVID-19 cases? This question should be at the top of the list. If there have been cases, ask how quickly the administration notifies families and how regularly they

send updates to families. Also, ask about the facility’s plan if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs.

Barton Woods Assisted Living has had no cases of COVID-19 with our residents or staff. We regularly update families on Michigan’s orders with regards to communal dining, group activities and restricted visitation. Barton Woods also has a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan endorsed by the Michigan Assisted Living Association (MALA).

We are grateful for all of our employees, residents, and their families.

- 40 bed facility
- Single, double, and kitchenette private apartments
- Attached private bathrooms with roll-in showers
- Each unit has a TV, 2 door closet, and in-room heating & cooling
- TV and cable are included
- Additional Amenities and Services Available



JOIN OUR BARTON WOODS FAMILY!

BARTON WOODS
ASSISTED LIVING

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Barton Woods is committed to meeting and exceeding the expectations of our residents and their families by providing quality care and personal service in a nurturing environment.



What safety protocols are in place to prevent COVID-19 from spreading? Among the things to ask are how frequently the facility is being disinfected and what protocols are in place to prevent COVID-19 or to prevent the spread of the virus.

Since March 2020, Barton Woods has mandated that proper personal protective equipment (PPE) be worn by all staff and healthcare workers. We have also given our staff PPE and hand sanitizer to take home, to avoid contracting the COVID-19 virus outside of the facility. We understand that it is our duty to prevent the spread of the virus into our facility, that includes maintaining our staff's safety at home. Barton Woods has a cleaning and disinfecting schedule for high traffic areas and resident individual apartments. We do daily screenings on residents and screen employees at each shift. Because staff take these protocols seriously, we have been successful in preventing COVID-19 infections.

What is your communication plan for families and residents? Ask how you can communicate with your loved one after move in, what visitation options are available, and what accommodations are needed for hearing and vision impairment.

Barton Woods Assisted Living has tried to be as creative as possible to assist residents in maintaining communication with family and friends. Window visits can occur whenever family

and friends are available to visit with minimal advance notice. We have iPads available for Facetime and Skype chats, and our Barton Woods phone line can be used at any time to receive or take calls from family and friends. We strive to maintain as much communication as possible between residents and those who mean the most to them.

Has the facility developed creative ways to keep residents engaged and active during the pandemic? Ask if the facility has been creative and responsive in developing alternatives to keep residents safe, entertained and active.

Barton Woods has developed creative ways to keep residents engaged, active, and safe during the pandemic. We have created safe outdoor events for our residents such as beach day and a snow cone event, both with proper social distancing. And we have entertainment in our courtyards for residents to enjoy through their windows.

Have additional questions? Please contact Barton Woods Assisted Living at 989-695-5380 or by email at rwilliams@bartonwoods.org. We will assist you with whatever questions or concerns you may have regarding care for your loved one during this very complex time. To see more of what we are doing at Barton Woods Assisted Living, please find us on Facebook or visit our website www.bartonwoods.org.

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