



**Ken
Field**

*Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services*

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Be Responsible

Being a responsible adult is not as easy as it looks. Just ask any responsible adult. After all you only live once, and you should live every day like it's your last. Sometimes I feel like people take that mentality to an extreme. So often I get emergency calls to repair a heating system that has been severely neglected and finally just stopped working. It's never on a weekday during normal business hours either. I keep accurate records for all of my customers on what I have done and when and the habitual offenders never have regular maintenance done. Just breakdown repairs and then they forget about the poor system again until the next time it breaks. Why am I complaining? After all, this is my job. The reason is that a small percentage of my customers cause the largest number of emergencies. They seem irresponsible to me based on the fact that winter comes every year around the same time and it is no surprise that a heating system will work hard during that season. These are the same people who would be driving a death trap if the government did not require annual safety inspections on cars.

A conscious effort is required to keep everything in your home in working order. From the rain gutters to the bathtub drain to the sump pump. Nobody likes it when an emergency pops up but when you live your life like every day is your last, you just don't care about the things that will happen tomorrow. That is not a strategy, that is a recipe for disaster.

I remember when the interest rate on loans was 10% or more. I had loans then. Now the interest rate is 4% or less and there is not much excuse to attempt to prolong the life of an obsolete furnace. But people seem perfectly happy letting a vital appliance nickel and dime them every winter. I have a couple customers who I have told 10 years ago that their system was inefficient and teetering on the brink of failure.

If they had replaced those systems I am confident that they would have saved that entire cost back in fuel savings since then.

But it's not up to me. I'm not a financial manager, just a business owner who hates to see people wasting money. Even if I'm the one who gets some of that money. The most responsible thing you can do as a homeowner is have an expert perform maintenance on your systems and listen to their suggestions. You only see your own system, we see hundreds of them.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

Four Out Of Five Covid+ Inpatients In Hospital For Covid, Not For Other Reasons

By Sam Kennedy

BETHLEHEM - Approximately 80% of Covid-positive patients currently in 11 St. Luke's University Health Network hospitals in Pennsylvania and New Jersey were admitted because of Covid, according to an analysis by the Network.

The data contradicts the recent public narrative that most hospitalized Covid inpatients tested positive for the coronavirus incidentally only after being admitted to the hospital for other reasons.

"We want to set the record straight," said Jeffrey Jahre, MD, St. Luke's Senior Vice President of Medical & Academic Affairs and Section Chief Emeritus of Infectious Diseases. "St. Luke's as a national leader in Covid care took the initiative to study this issue and share its findings with the public that the Omicron variant is indeed a serious health threat. It is putting an enormous strain on country's public health infrastructure and is disrupting life throughout the nation."

This week Massachusetts required its hospitals to differentiate between patients they admit primarily for Covid and those admitted for something else but who ended up testing positive.

The idea is to give the public a better understanding of how many people are in the hospital because of the virus. But while that data began to be collected Monday, it won't be released by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health until January 17.

Pennsylvania has not issued a similar directive. St. Luke's performed the analysis on its own and is sharing the information as public service.

"When people are armed with the facts, real facts, they are more likely to take the appropriate steps to protect themselves and our community's most vulnerable members," Jahre said.

Currently, St. Luke's has approximately 400 Covid-positive inpatients, including several dozen in the ICU. More than 1,800 Americans died of Covid yesterday.





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