



Katie Richardson

VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

May 14, 2020

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

As noted in my previous letters, it is essential to continue to update our residents and representatives regularly. Since my last communication, we have had eleven additional positive COVID-19 cases, all were asymptomatic and a result of our universal testing. As of today, we have completed a total of 196 of the asymptomatic universal COVID-19 tests on our residents throughout eleven units. We have two units to complete over the next several days and at that time, will be finished testing all residents. Yesterday, the New Jersey Commissioner of Health sent out an Executive Order which requires testing for all nursing home residents and staff. We are very proud that we took a proactive approach and were ahead of that directive. The Commissioner's Executive Order states all residents and staff who test negative for COVID-19 must be re-tested 3-7 days after the baseline negative is received. This means a follow-up test will be done on anyone who tested negative. As with the initial results, the follow-up results will be relayed to the resident/resident representative.

Since we last communicated, we have not had any new symptomatic residents. All testing is for the asymptomatic population. Currently in the nursing home, we have a total of eighty-five positive cases. Many of our diagnosed cases continue to be asymptomatic but have been moved to an isolation unit for monitoring. I am happy to report an additional three COVID-19 recovered cases, which brings our total number of recovered residents to sixty-one. As a reminder, to be considered recovered, a resident must have a minimum of fourteen days post positive swab result and be asymptomatic for a minimum of three days. We are also adding a precautionary step of a re-swab and an antibody blood test, referred to as IgG, before the resident moves back to the unit. We review all results with the resident and/or resident representative. We work closely with the physician to determine if isolation precautions can be discontinued for the resident before returning to their original room. Each recovered resident is cheered by our staff upon leaving the COVID unit and also cheered by the staff as he or she is welcomed back the unit. The cheering is a powerfully affirming and positive moment for the resident and the team!

Many of our staff who had COVID-19 positive results have fully recovered and returned to work. We have had two new positive staff results since my last communication. Our daily screening of employees to check for any signs and symptoms of respiratory illness has not changed. We remain hypervigilant with robust cleaning protocols throughout the Medical Center.

We are in the process of creating a family/resident window visitation area and are expected to start this initiative early next week. While visitation continues to remain suspended, we will be creating an outside area for family members to sit and talk to or look at loved ones though the window. While we know it is not the same as physical contact, we are very excited to offer these visitation alternatives. More to come very soon on this initiative.

As in previous letters, if you do not receive this communication via email, please reach out using the contact information below so we can add you to our email distribution list. As of, May 4, 2020, we are only sending hard copy update letters as requested. All others will be emailed and a copy of this communication can also be found on our website, www.newbridgehealth.org, under the Long Term Care Family and Friends link. If you would like to continue receiving these updates as a printed letter through the postal service, please contact me directly so we can maintain the mailing.

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The long term care employees cannot thank you enough for the support you have communicated and provided. While it has been challenging for our residents not to see their loved ones in person, it has been a heart-warming experience for us to watch them communicate with you via FaceTime and other platforms. If you would like to communicate with your loved one this way, please reach out to me directly.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at 201.967.4013 or krichardson@newbridgehealth.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Richardson".

Kathryn Richardson, LNHA
Chief Long Term Care Officer
Long Term Care Services

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