



Katie Richardson

VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

May 7, 2020

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

As noted in my previous updates, it is essential to continue to update our residents and representatives regularly. Since my last communication, we have had fourteen additional positive COVID-19 cases. Currently in the nursing home, we have sixty seven positive cases. Many of our diagnosed cases continue to be asymptomatic but have been moved to our isolation unit for monitoring. I am happy to report we have also had an additional thirteen COVID-19 recovered cases, which brings our total number of recovered residents to fifty-three. As a reminder, to be considered recovered, a resident must be 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!

We have decided to begin universal testing for those residents who have not yet been tested for COVID-19. This testing, which will take several days to complete, will begin May 8, 2020, as a proactive measure for resident well-being. All results will be communicated to residents and resident representatives. In addition to testing the residents, we will be testing all the long term care employees as well. Many of our staff who had COVID-19 positive results have fully recovered and returned to work. We have not had any new positive results on staff since my last communication. Our daily screening of employees has not changed to check for any signs and symptoms of respiratory illness. We remain hypervigilant with our robust cleaning protocols throughout the Medical Center.

As in previous letters, if you do not receive this communication via email, please reach out to me using the contact information below so we can add you to our email distribution list. Beginning Monday, May 4, 2020, update letters will be emailed and 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.

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 met at 201.967.4013 or krichardson@newbridgehealth.org. On behalf of Bergen New Bridge and Long Term Care, I would like to extend a Happy Mother's Day everyone.

Sincerely,

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