



Katie Richardson
VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

November 17, 2021

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center remains committed to updating our residents and representatives regularly. Recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has indicated that visitation for residents is now allowed indoor without scheduling appointments in advance. This will apply to our indoor visitation. Outdoor visitation will still require scheduling as we only have one designated area for outdoor visitation and will need ensure one resident and visitors in the area at a time.

All resident visitors should be aware of the risks that are potentially associated with visitation and must continue to visit Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and the residents in a manner that does not place residents at risk. Indoor visits must remain in resident rooms. Visits and visitors will not be permitted in the dayroom activities or any special events at this time. Visits should only occur in the resident rooms unless the resident or roommate is unvaccinated or moderately to severely immunocompromised, regardless of vaccination status. In these cases, staff will accommodate an alternate visitation area. Visitors should not walk around the hallways or any other areas in the medical center other than to go to the resident's unit and in and out of a resident room.

All visitors must wear masks and maintain social distancing while at BNBMC. During visitation in a resident room, if the resident is vaccinated and is not moderately or severely compromised, the resident may choose not to wear a mask and may have physical contact while in the resident room. We ask that privacy curtains be pulled during visitation particularly if there is a roommate in the room.

All visitors must still be screened upon entry and will be offered a COVID-19 rapid antigen test. While the test is not required, we do encourage all visitors to be tested either here or on their own prior to any visitation. We ask that if you are experiencing any COVID-19 related, flu like or other symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, have traveled outside the United States or have had exposure to someone positive for COVID-19 that you not visit our residents.

Should there be a positive case in long term care, notification will be made as I have been doing throughout the pandemic and visitation will be addressed and discussed at that time.

As a reminder, in order to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19, the following are recommended:

- Wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds often or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and put distance between yourself and other people by staying at least 6 feet from other people
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

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- Cover your cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow/sleeve area and wash your hands immediately after handling tissues
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily
- Be alert for symptoms which include fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, GI issues and other symptoms.

Should you prefer to contact us in advance for indoor visitation as you have been, you are welcome to do so by continuing to call Sherri Siwulec at 201-967-4004. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at 201-967-4013 or via email krichardson@newbridgehealth.org.

I continue to encourage all of you to remain safe and healthy, maintain proper hand hygiene and good infection control practices and hope you enjoy the upcoming holidays.

Sincerely,

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

Kathryn Richardson, LNHA
Chief Long Term Care Officer

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