



Katie Richardson

*VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer*

November 10, 2020

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center remains committed to updating our residents and representatives regularly. In the past 24 hours, there have been two staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 as part of our weekly surveillance testing. Both were asymptomatic and have been removed from duty and will only be returned once appropriately cleared by a physician. There have not been any COVID-19 positive resident results.

I wanted to share that, as part of our COVID-19 prevention efforts and safety measures, we have created cohort areas in the facility. There are four cohorts: COVID-19 Positive, COVID-19 Negative but with an exposure, COVID-19 Negative without any exposure and New/Re-Admissions. All residents who get admitted to a hospital/other healthcare setting or are a new admission to our facility, will need to be on our New/Re-Admission Unit for a 14 day period. Once the 14 day period has passed, he/she can move to their previous or new unit. While we realize this may be an inconvenience to our residents, it is a safety measure we have adopted to ensure proper screening and monitoring is in place.

When we have been 14 days without a positive result and are not in the process of conducting outbreak testing, we will be working to set up limited indoor visitation in a designated location. Once we have an acceptable location with proper safety measures in place, we will notify you. These visits will need to be scheduled, informed consent signed and the same protective measures in place, e.g. proper mask wearing, no physical contact, etc. Outdoor and window visitation remain the preferable methods of visitation and indoor visitation would be curtailed should we have a positive result. In addition, should local and county positivity rates exceed medium, indoor visitation would be curtailed. We strongly encourage anyone who will be scheduling an indoor visit to be tested and provide result to my office within 2-3 days of the scheduled visit.

We continue to have a pre-recorded phone number, 201-967-6858, that can be used in emergent situations to provide updates. The information will be updated as situations change. Should there be an urgent concern, there is always a nursing supervisor available who can be reached at 201-694-5878.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to take all the necessary precautions and work diligently in our COVID-19 prevention efforts. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at 201.967.4013 or [krichardson@newbridgehealth.org](mailto:krichardson@newbridgehealth.org).

Sincerely,

Kathryn Richardson, LNHA  
Chief Long Term Care Officer