



Katie Richardson

VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

November 5 2020

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center remains committed to updating our residents and representatives regularly. Since my last update, there have not been any staff or residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 resulting from our weekly surveillance testing of staff and residents.

We continue with our daily respiratory screening of residents/staff, robust cleaning measures which includes the use of an electrostatic sprayer and our travel policy for staff. Communal dining and group activities continue to be restricted.

As we look at the resumption of services, we must follow all directives in place to ensure the safety of our residents and staff remain a top priority. The Department of Health has released an updated executive directive that describes the steps and what needs to be in place prior to resuming in-person visitation and other COVID-19 restrictions. Once we have been 14 days without a positive result and are not completing outbreak testing, we can work with our local department of health and attest to the NJ Department of Health that we are ready to advance to the next phase which may include indoor visitation. I will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

We continue taking residents, on a one to one basis with our staff, to our porch areas for fresh air. Residents are enjoying these and we are accommodating as many as we can each day.

As always, we encourage our outdoor and window visitation sessions as a way to see your loved ones as indoor visitation remains restricted. We continue to appreciate everyone's adherence to the guidelines that are set forth. For all outdoor and window visit appointments, please continue to contact Sherri Siwulec at 201-967-4004. We are purchasing a new tent in the anticipation of cooler temperatures. We also offer virtual visits via FaceTime, Google Duo or other forms of communication.

Many of you have asked about the cooler months approaching and outdoor visitation. We are looking to get a new tent that would help with temperatures. We are unable to have heating devices and will be following guidelines from CMS and the NJ Department of Health on outdoor visitation to ensure the most comfortable environment during visitation.

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.

As many of you know, this is the time of year where we hold nominations and elections for Resident Council officers in the upcoming year, we have recently met with the Resident Council President and Vice President and determined that we will postpone this until we are able to move back to group activities and residents being able to go to other units.

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.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Richardson, LNHA
Chief Long Term Care Officer

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