



Katie Richardson
VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

November 23, 2020

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

Being proactive and part of solutions is something Bergen New Bridge Medical Center takes pride in. Today, I am happy to share with you that we have been asked to participate in a project with the NJ Department of Health, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and the Rutgers School of Public Health. Based on the number of positive cases that have occurred in long term care facilities across the state, a serosurvey will be done to determine the antibody levels in residents and staff of those who have or have not tested positive. The information gathered in the study may be of value to the clinical management of residents across the state and help provide a better understanding of the pandemic and its impact.

The study is completely voluntary and will involve a representative from Rutgers Medical School who will draw approximately a teaspoon of blood to be tested at the New Jersey State Laboratory. Participation is completely voluntary and all residents, who have the ability to make his/her own decisions will be asked to sign an informed consent explaining the project. Those who are unable to give consent will have their resident representative contacted by a member of Rutgers to discuss the project. At that time, the representative can decide to provide consent or not,

We are excited to participate in this project and hopeful that the information it provides will help all residents and facilities in the future.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 201-967-4013.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Richardson, LNHA
Chief Long Term Care Officer