



Katie Richardson
VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

August 27, 2021

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center remains committed to updating our residents and representatives regularly. There have not been any staff or residents in Long Term Care who have tested positive for COVID-19 since my last communication. It is imperative that we all remain vigilant in our day to day operations here at Bergen New Bridge. Our Environmental Services team continues to ensure cleaning and disinfecting is a top priority. Our staff continue to wear masks throughout the medical center. While with residents and performing care, face shields are also utilized for an additional level of protection. Daily screening of staff and residents for respiratory symptoms remains ongoing.

As the delta variant of the COVID-19 virus continues to be dominant in our area, I wanted to share and remind everyone that this highly contagious strain is very concerning, particularly for unvaccinated individuals as it may cause more severe illness than previous strains. Vaccination remains strongly encouraged for all our residents and is mandated by Governor Murphy for our staff. Currently if a staff member is not vaccinated, he/she must be tested twice per week. Unvaccinated residents are also tested weekly. We continue to offer the vaccine to all staff, residents and community through our vaccination center.

Many of you have asked about the booster vaccine (3rd dose). We will be rolling out a plan for anyone who needs a booster vaccine for Pfizer or Moderna. We are following CDC guidelines and prioritizing the moderately to severely immunocompromised residents. You will be contacted for an updated consent for the third dose when it is time for you or your loved one to receive the booster.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at 201-967-4004 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. If you haven't already, we encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Richardson, LNHA
Chief Long Term Care Officer