



Katie Richardson
VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

May 19, 2020

Dear Resident and Resident Representative:

As noted in my previous letters, we are committed to updating our residents and representatives regularly. Since my last communication, we have not had to perform any symptomatic COVID-19 tests, all our testing has been on asymptomatic residents as part of our universal baseline and re-testing initiative. As of today, we have completed initial baseline tests on all our residents and over the next two days, will complete the final three units of the required re-testing. Thirty three asymptomatic residents had positive test results and have been cohorted. As always, results will be relayed to the residents/resident representative.

I am happy to report we have seventy nine recovered residents that have been moved back to their home units as isolation precautions are no longer needed. We continue to celebrate and welcome each recovered resident upon arrival back to their unit. The cheering is a powerfully affirming and positive moment for the resident and the team!

Many of our staff who had COVID-19 positive results have fully recovered and returned to work. Our universal testing of employees to date yielded two positive results and those staff are out of work until cleared per guidelines. Our daily screening of employees to check for any signs and symptoms of respiratory illness has not changed. We remain hypervigilant with robust cleaning/disinfection protocols throughout the Medical Center.

We have created a window visitation area in the front of the Medical Center so you can visit your loved one. The location for residents to sit will be in our first floor coffee shop by the window areas. Family members can sit on the outside of that location in a specially created area that allows loved ones to see inside to our residents on the other side of the window. When utilizing this 'visiting' option, please bring your cell phone and we will provide a cell phone to the resident on the inside. If the resident is not able to utilize a cell phone and you would just like to see him/her, we will have a staff member present to assist so your voice can be heard. We are starting this immediately and will initially have time slots available Monday – Friday, 9:30am – 11:30am and 1:30pm – 4:30pm and will expand to the weekends beginning next week. In order to create a schedule, we ask that you contact Sherri Siwulec at 201-967-4004 or myself to schedule a time to have a window visit with your loved one.

As in previous letters, if you do not receive this communication via email, please reach out using the contact information below so we can add you to our email distribution list. As of, May 4, 2020, we are only sending hard copy update letters as requested. All others will be emailed and a copy of this communication can also be found on our website, www.newbridgehealth.org, under the Long Term Care Family and Friends link. If you would like to continue receiving these updates as a printed letter through the postal service, please contact me directly so we can maintain the mailing.

The long term care employees cannot thank you enough for the support you have communicated and provided. While it has been challenging for our residents not to see their loved ones in person, it has been a heart-warming experience for us to watch them communicate with you via FaceTime and other platforms. If you would like to communicate with your loved one this way, please reach out to me directly.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at 201.967.4013 or krichardson@newbridgehealth.org.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Richardson, LNHA
Chief Long Term Care Officer

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
230 East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey 07652
Phone: 201.967.4004 • Fax: 201.967.4326
NewBridgeHealth.org