



Katie Richardson

VP/Administrator and Chief Long Term Care Officer

November 20, 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 has been one staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 as part of our weekly surveillance testing. The staff member is asymptomatic and has been removed from duty and will only be returned once appropriately cleared by a physician. There have not been any positive resident results.

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. All our direct care staff, not only wear a mask, but also wear a face shield for added protection to themselves and our residents.

Just as a reminder to the November 13 and 20<sup>th</sup> letters, 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. Bergen County positivity rate has been increasing and we are keeping any eye on the COVID-19 Activity Level (CALI) Reports. 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 will also be working on a plan for the holidays to increase virtual visitation and I will be including those details in a future communication.

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).

With the holiday season coming up, I encourage all of you to remain safe and healthy, wear a mask, maintain good hand hygiene and practice social distancing. As a reminder, visit our website at <https://www.newbridgehealth.org/covid-19-testing/> for information on COVID-19 testing for you or a loved one.

Sincerely,

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