

Outbreak Response Plan: Brother Bonaventure Extended Care

Brother Bonaventure Extended Care in conjunction with Trinitas Regional Medical Center Infection Control department has implemented an outbreak response plan in compliance with the guidelines issued by Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services(CMS), New Jersey Department of Health and Communicable Disease Services(NJDOHCDS), New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), and the County Department of Health. The purpose of this plan is to keep our residents and staff safe. The outbreak plan includes but is not limited to: emergency staffing, ongoing communication and updates to the families/staff/ residents, visitation rules, and testing of residents and staff.

Anyone seeking entrance, including all staff and vendors are screened with temperature and symptom check prior to being allowed on the units. Any vendor who screens in as having a symptom and/or temperature at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit will not be allowed to enter the facility. Any staff member who displays a sign/symptom or develops a temperature at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be referred to employee health for screening and potential testing. They are also provided appropriate PPE as needed. All visitors have been restricted since March 13, 2020. All staff and vendors that enter the facility must wear a surgical mask at all times (Universal Masking).

The facility has discontinued communal dining for residents and all group activities except when there is appropriate social distancing. The facility has explained to the residents/patients on proper hand hygiene and the meaning of social distancing.

Assessment, Testing, Cohorting and Active monitoring of All residents.

Hand hygiene is key to decreasing the risk for infection and needs to occur per policy, especially prior to PPE application and after PPE removal. Hand hygiene can occur with either soap and water for 20 seconds or use of alcohol based hand sanitizer on all surfaces of the hands until dry. A surgical mask will be placed on all residents when they are outside of their room and when being transferred to another location. We encourage hand hygiene with our residents as well.

Nurses will actively monitor for signs and symptoms including: fever (≥ 100 on more than one occasion) cough, sore throat, unexplained diarrhea, shortness of breath, lethargy, loss of sense of taste or smell, or loss of appetite. (Updated 5/15/20) Nursing will notify APN/MD of any new signs/symptoms. If residents have signs and symptoms they will be separated and placed on contact and droplet isolation. The resident will also be tested at that time. Residents that meet criteria for testing will be moved to a designated area as a suspect case. Residents that test positive will also be moved into one designated area. Any resident that meets guidelines for testing and refuses will be placed on transmission based precautions and treated as a suspect case. Authorized family member or legal representative will be notified of any changes made and why. Any new admitted or readmitted residents from the hospital are tested and kept in quarantine for fourteen days.

All staff are tested weekly for screening purposes and any staff who test positive is taken off work for the stipulated time in accordance to the CDC, CMS, NJDOH guidelines. All staff entering the facility are to complete screening questionnaire and temperature checks daily. Any staff that exhibit signs or symptoms will be tested and removed from work until the results of the test are known and

then follow protocol depending on the test result. Any staff that refuses testing or does not authorize that their results are released will not be permitted to enter the facility.

Reporting Requirements

The facility shall comply with all the applicable reporting guidelines to the government agencies. Reporting is currently occurring through NHSN and the NJHA PPE portal.

Strategies for Emergency Staffing

Brother Bonaventure works with the human resources department of Trinitas Regional Medical Center to recruit COVID relief nurses as well as utilizing student nurses who were trained by the education department to serve as nursing assistants. Also administrative staffs who are nurses have a rotation schedule to cover if nurses are needed due to worker absences.

Communication, Visitation with Residents and their Families

Residents and primary contacts of the patients under the facility's care will be notified when there are positive cases within the facility by 5pm the next calendar day each time a single confirmed positive case is identified or whenever there are three or more residents or staff identified with new onset of respiratory symptoms that occur within 72 hours of each other, in accordance with CMS rule 42 CFR 483.80(g). The primary contacts of patients who test positive will be notified of their status and overall condition.

The facility ensures that residents maintain contact with family via scheduled virtual visits via ZOOM on a regular basis. Outdoor visitation (updated 7/24/2020) are very much encouraged and are conducted in accordance with the CDC and NJDOH outdoor visitation guidelines. Indoor visitation is also available for End-of-Life, Compassionate Care and Essential Caregivers in accordance with NJDOH Executive Directives No. 20-026.

Lessons Learned from the Experience with the COVID-19 Outbreak

Our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic and the facility outbreak helped us to learn the importance of careful surveillance of our residents for signs and symptoms and the increased usage of screening testing. We learned that the virus presents differently in different people and by increased testing we can identify and respond to cases sooner and keep our residents and staff safe. We have also learned that our open and timely communication with the residents and their families regarding the status of the residents helped to alleviate some of the anxiety and fear caused by the pandemic and these communication strategies will continue.

We encourage residents/families and their representatives to continue to reach out to our staff for assistance and concerns and any detailed information as needed.

For more detailed information of the outbreak plan, please reach out to the Administrator or the Director of Nursing.

Facility Phone Number: 908-994-7050

Administrator: 908-994-7525

Director of Nursing: 908-994-7326