



1515 Wayne Avenue  
Indiana, Pa. 15701  
724-349-5300

October 29, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Caregivers,

I hope this finds you well and in good health. We thank you for entrusting us with caring for your loved ones and thank you for your continued support through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our main goal remains to provide high-quality care and to keep your loved ones safe.

Our guidance from state and federal governing bodies continues to change rapidly. We are continuing to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Health guidelines with regard to infection control policies and procedures for prevention and mitigation of COVID-19.

On September 3, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health installed additional nursing home staff testing protocols in response to a recent update from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The state requires a greater frequency of testing based on the amount of virus activity in a given county.

Currently, our county is in the Yellow Phase. Here are the state definitions:

- Counties with a test positivity rate of less than 5.0% (or with fewer than 10 tests in past 7 days) are in the Green Phase.
  - Routine testing of asymptomatic residents is not recommended.
  - Routine testing of asymptomatic staff is recommended every four weeks.
- Counties with test positivity rate of 5.0%-10.0% are in the Yellow Phase.
  - Routine testing of asymptomatic residents is encouraged of all residents with outside contact in the last 14 days, if they have not otherwise been tested during that period.
  - Routine testing of asymptomatic staff is recommended once a week.
- And counties with test positivity rate of greater than 10.0% are considered to be in the Red Phase.
  - Weekly testing is recommended of all asymptomatic residents with outside contact in the last 14-days, if they have not been otherwise tested during the period.
  - Routine testing of all asymptomatic staff twice a week.

Test positivity is rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent before classifying.

In addition, the state has revised recommendations for routine screening for skilled nursing facilities and safe access for Compassionate Caregivers. For more information, please visit the DOH website:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/SNF-Guidance.aspx>

Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the data below to be provided weekly to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

Resident Impact ( May 8, 2020 thru October 29, 2020 )

Number of cases	
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0	ADMISSIONS: Residents admitted or readmitted who were previously hospitalized and treated for COVID-19
2	ADMISSIONS: Residents admitted or readmitted from the hospital who we were informed were positive COVID-19 after transfer to the facility
29	CONFIRMED: Residents with new laboratory positive COVID-19
0	SUSPECTED: Residents with new suspected COVID-19
6	TOTAL DEATHS: Residents who died in the facility or another location, this week
4	COVID-19 DEATHS: Residents with suspected or laboratory positive COVID-19 who died in the facility or another location, this week

There are no new resident cases to report this week. We remain under the “Yellow phase” and “Red phase” within our facility. We will continue to perform weekly COVID 19 testing as part of our weekly facility surveillance testing. There are a number of factors, one that includes 14 days of negative results, that come into play for us to move past these restrictions and return to inside visitation and normalized operations.

Once a County has moved into the “Green Phase,” a minimum of 28 days must pass from entering this phase and also assume the following conditions are met:

- No active or new Covid-19 cases within the last 28 days
- The facility is not experiencing staff shortages
- The facility has adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and essential cleaning and disinfection supplies to care for residents
- The facility has adequate access to testing for COVID-19
- Referral hospital(s) have bed capacity on wards and intensive care units

At the current time, new admissions are being tested prior to transfer into the facility. New staff is being tested prior to starting. We began our weekly testing the week of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

A large part of our strategic preparation is staffing contingency plans and breaking the facility into different zones for positive, presumed positive or exposed, and negative results. Follow up testing procedures will be based on the initial testing outcome.

We continue to report our data to a number of sources on a daily and weekly basis. This data is now publically published by the Pennsylvania Department of Health on a routine basis.

Please know that we encourage staff to maintain social distancing, use caution when attending gatherings, wear a mask and practice hand hygiene while at work and home.

In closing, I hope all of you and your families are well and healthy. We will get through these challenging times together and be stronger in the end! Thank you for entrusting us to care for your loved ones.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at, 724-349-5300 or [lmccandrews@beaconridge.net](mailto:lmccandrews@beaconridge.net).

We thank you for your continued support through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our main goal remains to provide high-quality care and to keep your loved ones safe.

In Good Health,

*Leah McAndrews, MSW/NHA*

Administrator