



3.4.2021

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

Please accept this letter as our weekly update regarding the status of COVID-19 in our facility. We are happy to report that, as of today, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our facility. Since the onset of the virus, we have had 73 residents and 45 staff members test positive for COVID - 19. We also have completed the our three vaccination clinics. Moving forward we will be working with Worcester Health Department as to how to proceed with new admits and new staff members.

Please continue to check our website for weekly updates as well as notification of new cases. As always, we will notify you if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility and we will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly at 410.641.4400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angie Gozali", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Angie Gozali, LNHA

Administrator

9715 Healthway Dr • Berlin, MD 21811  
P: 410.641.4400 • F: 410.641.0011  
[www.berlinnursingandrehab.com](http://www.berlinnursingandrehab.com)



3.10.2021

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

It is hard to believe that it has been one year since COVID-19 changed all of our lives so drastically. From being forced to restrict visitors and change the way our residents communicate with their loved ones to making changes in our infection prevention and control practices, everything we have done and continue to do is an effort to keep our staff and residents safe. We want to thank our staff for their unwavering dedication to our residents and we want to thank our families for their continued support and patience as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

As always, our goal is to be transparent and provide you with weekly updates on the status of COVID-19 in our facility, including the current number of positive cases in our facility, how many confirmed cases of COVID-19 we have had since the beginning of this pandemic and our visitation status.

**Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Currently in the Facility**

Staff: Zero

Residents: Zero

**Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Since the Onset of the Pandemic:**

Staff: 45

Residents: 73

**Date of Last Newly Confirmed COVID-19 Case:**

Staff – January 19, 2021

Resident - December 22, 2020

**VISITATION STATUS**

We are very glad to open our doors under the CMS guidelines to family and friends. Attached you will find our approved Indoor Visitation policy. Visits will be schedule w Ms. Virginia Daniel Brickhouse – Activity Supervisor. Chelse Fry SW has temporarily taken other responsibilities within the facility.

Please continue to check our website for weekly updates as well as notification of new cases. As always, we will notify you if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility and we will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

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## GENERAL VISITATION REQUIREMENTS

At all times, especially during visitations, our facility will practice and enforce the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention (“Core Principles”), which include but are not limited to screening all visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID and ensuring that visitors (1) practice hand hygiene; (2) use face coverings or masks that cover the mouth and nose; and (3) practice social distancing of at least six feet apart during the visit. Also, our facility staff will clean and disinfect high frequency touched surfaces and designated visitation areas after each visit and they will use appropriate PPE at all times.

### OUTDOOR VISITATION

We will provide you and our residents the opportunity for routine outdoor visitation that adheres to the above-referenced Core Principles in a designated, accessible and safe out-door space that allows for privacy between you and the resident. For safety reasons, we may use barriers such as plexiglass to reduce the transmission of the virus during your visit. Also, in the event of inclement weather, a resident’s compromised health status or a facility outbreak of COVID-19, we may be forced to delay, suspend or cancel visitation until the issue has resolved. We will provide you with as much notice as possible if this occurs, but please make sure to always call the facility and check the visitation status prior to coming to the facility.

### INDOOR VISITATION

Because the risk for transmission and infection of COVID-19 is greater indoors, we encourage you and our residents to visit outdoors when possible. However, we will also offer indoor visitation using following guidelines and Core Principles as suggested by CMS:

- Indoor visitation cannot occur if the facility has any new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days or is conducting outbreak testing.
- All visitors must adhere to core principles referenced above in addition to any other facility specific safety requirements, which we will share with you prior to your visit.
- We may use barriers, such as plexiglass, to reduce the transmission of the virus during your visit.
- We will limit the number of visitors per resident and the number of visitors allowed in the facility at one time based on our size.
- We will schedule visits with time limits to allow all residents to receive visitors.
- We will limit the movement of visitors throughout the facility and provide routes to designated visitation area.
- There will not be visitation in shared rooms unless the resident cannot leave the room due to his/her health status.
- We will monitor our county positivity rate to help determine whether we can provide indoor visitation. If our county positivity rate is above 10%, indoor visitation cannot take place unless it is for compassionate care reasons.
- We may also monitor other factors that increase COVID-19 risk levels to include: rates of COVID-19 like illnesses, visits to the emergency department, or positivity rate of a county adjacent to the county where the nursing home is locate.

### **COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITS**

Compassionate care visits are conducted indoors and could include visits with a family member who is struggling with changes in his/her environment and lack of physical family support, a visit with a grieving resident after the loss of a family or friend, visits to assist a family member that needs encouragement with eating or drinking because he/she at risk for weight loss or dehydration, or visits with a resident that is experiencing emotional distress. We will work with you to identify if there is a need for a compassionate care visit and we ask you to contact us if you feel like you or your loved one needs to schedule this type of visit.

### **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

Our residents are looking forward to seeing you and so are we! But please remember that our number one goal is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our facility to keep our residents and staff safe. As such, please understand we may be forced to restrict visitation or deny you entry to the facility if our county positivity rate rises above 10%, if we have an outbreak of COVID-19, if you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or if you fail to adhere to proper infection control practices. We will not restrict visitations without a clinical or safety reason. We want our residents to be happy, and we know that a visit from you will help make that happen – we just need to make sure it happens safely!



**WEEKLY UPDATE**

03.25.2021

Dear Residents and Families/Representatives,

Please accept this letter as our weekly update on the status of COVID-19 in our facility.

**Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Currently in the Facility**

Staff: Zero

Residents: Zero

**Total Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Since the Onset of the Pandemic:**

Staff: 45

Residents: 73

**Date of Last Newly Confirmed COVID-19 Case:**

Staff- January 19, 2021

Residents – December 22, 2020

**Visitation Status:**

We are excited to open our doors under the CMS guidelines to families and friends. Please contact Activity Supervisor – Virginia Daniel-Brickhouse and schedule a visit with your loved one at 410.641.4400 x 6123.

**Facility Safety Precautions:**

We continue to practice the enhanced safety precautions that are known to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as only essential personnel are allowed inside the facility and we screen them for signs and symptoms of illness prior to entering. Our residents are continually monitored and staff is using PPE as recommended by the CDC. Staff is frequently reminded and encouraged to practice social distancing and to use hand sanitizer and frequently wash their hands when they are in the facility and out in the community. We ask them not to report to work if they have symptoms of illness.

Please continue to check our website for weekly updates as well as notification of new cases. As always, we will notify you if we receive confirmation of a new positive case in our facility and we will reach out to you individually if your loved one is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

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Enclosed – Physician Notification Letter.

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