

St. Teresa Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
Bishop Primeau Senior Living Community
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October 16, 2020

Families, residents, staff and friends,

This has been a very busy week. On Monday we did our surveillance testing on all Staff and 10% of residents. We did not receive those results until Thursday Morning. These results told us that one staff member and two residents had tested positive.

Because we monitor all staff and residents daily for symptoms, We started using full PPE on Monday, before we got our results, when a staff member shared, before coming in, that she had developed some symptoms and others in her family did as well. Unfortunately, asymptomatic spread is our nemesis.

All rooms were set up to help contain spread with plastic and zippers and full PPE on staff and precautions were implemented. We have a good stock pile of PPE and have access to replenish it. The Emergency Services unit allows me to request gowns, masks, etc. and then supplies them and often drops them off. Our home office has also assisted us with obtaining any hard to get items, like more varieties of N95 masks and goggles. I am confident that we are well supplied at this time.

We have been monitoring and carefully watching all residents for symptoms every shift. So Tuesday, we used our quick 15 minute tests. This test machine and equipment are best utilized only when symptoms present. So we started to test any resident with a symptom - Headache, fever, lethargy, cough or weakness - we wanted to know if something was brewing before testing again. These tests are not the most accurate they say, but we found 8 residents test positive using this test and Monday's testing confirmed 1 and identified another. We currently have 9 positive resident test results. All residents and their Healthcare proxy / power of attorney, have received phone calls from our nursing Staff. This is a change in condition that we will always call and report to you.

We have 2 staff members with positive results. Everyone (All Staff and residents - except 3 residents who refused) was tested yesterday and we hope to have results over the weekend from the public health lab. We will be testing everyone weekly until we have 2 weeks with no new cases. We will continue to try to get the 3 residents to test with us.

We are following all DPH guidance. We speak to them daily, sometimes more than once. We are getting wonderful support from the DPH and other State officials. They have advised us to contain all positive and exposed residents to a unit and cohort positive and exposed. The quarantine rooms we set up on Bridge hall we have been using to quarantine new admissions for 14 days. We hope to contain cases on Trinity. All rooms are now set up for quarantine/ precautions.

We are doing our best to assign specific staff and not cross staff from units. We have designated entrances for those working the active unit and other for other staff and dietary to minimized cross contamination. High touch surfaces are cleaned often. As staff report symptoms they are being asked to quarantine. I am working with the State of NH Strike team and FEMA to help us with staffing.

Kudos to my team, all hands are on deck. We got this.... We say a prayer together daily.

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luanne Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Luanne Rogers
Administrator