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May 02, 2022

Notification to Family or Next of Kin

Dear Resident / Representative / Family Member:

The Helen Hayes Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) is committed to providing families with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) informational updates through letters posted on our website and personal updates via authorized person's preferred manner of communication (email, telephone or by such other means as may be selected by each authorized member or guardian regarding your loved ones' specific status). The SNF has been and will remain open in its reporting of COVID-19 information during this pandemic.

Due to the current Omicron COVID-19 outbreak throughout the State of New York, the New York State Department of Health has issued a Health Advisory under 10 NYCRR §415.19 to implement testing protocols for all visitors entering a nursing home in New York State during the duration of the Omicron outbreak:

Testing for Visitors:

All nursing homes licensed and regulated by the New York State Department of Health must verify that visitors have received a negative SARS-CoV-2 test result **one day prior to visitation for antigen tests and two days prior to visitation for NAAT (e.g. PCR) tests**. **All visitors may use either NAAT testing or antigen testing**. This means, for example, that a test for a Sunday visit should be conducted no earlier than Saturday if it's an antigen test or Friday if it's a PCR test. Any PCR or antigen test used must either have Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. For visitors who visit for multiple days, including a visitor who comes every day, proof of negative testing is required as often as feasible, at a minimum every third day (meaning at a minimum testing is required on day one, day 4, day 7, and so on).

In response the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Guidance Q8O-20-29-NH issued on May 8, 2020, all nursing homes shall notify all residents and family members and/or representatives of all residents if any resident tests positive for COVID-19 or if any resident suffers a COVID-19 related death within 24 hours of such positive test result or death. In addition, notification will be made if a cluster of three or more residents and/or staff with new onset respiratory symptoms occurs.

In accordance with CMS Guidance QSO-20-29-NH, the SNF will post this information as needed on our website, www.helenhayeshospital.org. The letter will include the number of new resident COVID-19 positive tests, resident COVID-19 related expirations and any clusters of new on-set of respiratory symptoms for the last 24-hour period.

The SNF will continue to be available to family members to respond to any questions you may have. Do not hesitate to contact your Social Worker for assistance.

Number of resident COVID-19 positive tests: 0 new; 15 total .
Number of resident COVID-19 related expirations: 0 new; 0 total
Number of staff COVID-19 positive tests: 1 new; 61 total
Cluster of new on-set of respiratory symptoms present: None

We will continue to fight this pandemic and provide you with the latest information. Many of you have called us and we are happy to respond, always providing the latest information.

In closing, please know that we are thinking of you and your family and hope that you remain safe in your homes.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Brigandi

Jacqueline Brigandi, MSN, CRRN, LNHA
Nursing Home Administrator
Helen Hayes Hospital