

BERKS HEIM COVID STATUS UPDATE: October 8, 2021

Berks Heim currently has no positive resident cases of COVID-19. All residents that previously tested for COVID-19 are now recovered.

One hundred ninety-nine (199) staff have tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic. One Staff member tested positive on 9/29/2021.

A new outbreak has been identified as a result of a positive COVID-19 test during routine testing of non-vaccinated staff. As of 9/29/2021, the facility began completing outbreak COVID-19 testing of residents and staff on the identified unit using a unit-based testing approach. No further positive cases were identified in the unit-based testing completed. Outbreak unit based COVID-19 testing was again completed on 10/4/2021 and concluded on 10/5/21. The outbreak testing is now completed and officially concluded.

The facility will continue testing staff based on the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) facility's county level of Community Transmission.

CMS made changes to COVID-19 testing guidance on 9/10/2021. Berks Heim will be following the newly released guidance. If a future outbreak is identified the facility will perform outbreak investigation testing. Berks Heim will also conduct routine testing of unvaccinated staff based on the facility's county level of Community Transmission released by CMS in the past week. Routine testing of asymptomatic residents is not recommended unless prompted by a change in circumstances, such as the identification of a confirmed COVID-19 case in the facility. Any resident that presents with COVID-19 symptoms will be tested.

Berks Heim is able to offer pre-scheduled indoor visitation for those residents residing on "Green" areas of the facility (COVID Unexposed Zones) only. Indoor visitation will take place in the facility auditorium on the first floor. If you interested in scheduling an outdoor or indoor visit or are unsure of the status of a nursing unit, please contact Social Services or the Activity Department to schedule a visit or inquire.

Compassionate/end of life visitation will continue through requests reviewed by the Director of Nursing.