

BERKS HEIM COVID STATUS UPDATE: November 2, 2021

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

Two hundred-six (206) staff have tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic. One Staff member tested positive on 10/29/2021. This positive test does not impact current outbreak date of 10/25/2021.

A new outbreak has been identified as a result of a positive staff member on 10/25/2021. The facility is completing outbreak COVID-19 testing of residents and staff using a facility wide testing approach. Residents and staff will be tested at least weekly until a minimum of 14 days is reached without any additional COVID-19 cases. Testing will be adjusted once this goal is reached.

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.

Based on our current outbreak and recommendations from PA Department of Health Berks Heim is only able to offer pre-scheduled and outdoor visitation for those who are not currently under transmission-based precautions. Indoor visitation is currently on hold due to recent positive COVID-19 cases. If you interested in scheduling an outdoor 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.