

## **BERKS HEIM COVID STATUS UPDATE: December 3, 2021**

Our current Coronavirus update:

Residents: 9 active cases

Staff: 2 active case

Due to a recent resident positive test result on 12/01/2021 we have begun outbreak testing with a unit-based testing approach on the A3 unit in the facility. Unfortunately, 5 additional residents and one staff were identified as COVID-19 positive during outbreak testing on 12/1/2021. Additionally, 4 more positive cases of COVID-19 were identified on 12/3/2021. We will test all residents and staff again during unit-based outbreak testing scheduled for Monday 12/06/2021. There was previously a positive staff member identified on 11/21/2021 and outbreak testing following this positive test result had yielded all negative results.

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.

As of 11/12/2021 CMS updated the Nursing Home Visitation Guidance for COVID-19. Berks Heim is now able to offer unscheduled visitation and no longer requires advance scheduling of visits. We will continue to take precautions for visiting at Berks Heim which includes following the core principles of infection prevention for COVID-19.

The core principles of infection prevention include: Getting Vaccinated against COVID-19, Hand Hygiene, Wearing a Face Covering, and Social Distancing with at least six feet between people.

Our recommended visiting hours are 8:00am to 8:00pm. Visitors of Berks Heim will continue to be screened prior to visits and the use of a face mask is still required.

Visitors must also sign in and out at each nursing unit when entering to visit their loved one. We ask that you please limit visitor movement in the facility and go directly to your visiting area in the facility.

If you are sick or think you might have COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19, please do not visit until you have met the criteria for ending quarantine in order to protect the health and safety of the residents at Berks Heim.