

FRIENDS HOME IN KENNETT

COVID UPDATE 1/3/2021

We are still **RED**

Happy New Year to you all and I am sure I speak for everyone when I say we are all looking forward to a brighter and better 2021. I also wanted to acknowledge all the staff, residents, families, and board members who have reached out to Patsy Phillip's family during their time of grief. I know they are suffering but the outreach from everyone has provided them with some comfort.

It is with a sad heart I announce the passing of our beloved Ben Nordmark on 12/31/20. He died in the hospital from COVID complications peacefully and with his family present. I know personally I am going to miss my conversations with Ben about his fascinating life story and his many areas of interest. Please hold his family and friends in your prayers.

We did complete retesting of all negative staff and residents on 12/28/20. Due to the holiday and the increase volume of tests being done in the area, the full results were not available until 1/1/21.

At this time, we do continue to have positive cases. There was one additional resident in the Personal Care Home who tested positive. In Linden Hall we did have 2 additional staff and another resident test positive. We retested all negative Linden Hall residents on 1/2/21, We will be retesting LH residents twice a week during this outbreak due to the close living arrangements. As of 1/3/21 we have been able to isolate the positive residents in LH.

All negative staff and residents will be retested on 1/6/21. This testing pattern will continue until we do not have any additional positive cases for 2 weeks. Starting on 1/1/21 all COVID tests will be billed to the individual's insurance. The state grant that was paying for the previous tests was discontinued on 12/28/20. We will still be using Medical Diagnostic Laboratories out of Hamilton NJ. If you have any questions now or in the future concerning the billing and testing please reach out to me.

As of this update all other staff members and residents who previously tested positive are stable and some have already returned to work. The state has been able to provide us with agency nurses since 12/23 allowing us to maintain and exceed our normal staffing patterns. The majority of shifts were covered by LPN's allowing for additional medical attention. I can not thank this program enough for helping us get safely through this awful time. We will continue to use their assistance in Linden Hall to maintain our staffing ratios and cover for ill staff members.

I still have not heard from CVS about our vaccination clinic. I did reach out via email to them last week but have not received a response. I will continue to reach out to them daily to ensure we have a clinic date set in the near future. I was in contact with Kendall Crosslands and they are getting vaccinated the end of this week.

Even though we are RED, PC staff is attempting to walk with residents one on one in the Personal Care home. Everyone is masked and maintaining social distancing.

I will continue to provide updates weekly and as needed. Please call me with any questions or concerns you may have. I welcome your calls because I do not want anyone worried or unsure of anything during this already difficult time.

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