

06/17/2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

Due to the large impact COVID-19 is having on Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF's) and other congregate settings, Governor Northam and the COVID-19 Long-Term Care Task Force have initiated the Virginia Department of Health Point Prevalence Survey (PPS) project. A PPS entails testing all individuals in a designated area of a facility, whether or not they have symptoms, on one day. Experience to date suggests that there are often positive but asymptomatic residents and staff in LTCF's, which contributes to silent transmission. The results will inform facility administrators about the extent and distribution of infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 on that specific day. A PPS is a powerful tool that can be used to intervene early in outbreaks, especially in LTCF's, as a PPS can help guide decisions regarding cohorting residents and staff.

Bland County Nursing and Rehab feels the data made available from point prevalence testing will be tremendously valuable, specifically from a care perspective and staffing perspective. As a result, we wanted to notify you of our plans to partner with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia National Guard (VANG) to perform PPS on all residents and employees on June 25, 2020. The PPS will involve testing via nasopharyngeal swabs that will produce results in 48 hours, offering baseline data for COVID-19. **Bland County Nursing and Rehab** will provide additional updates once results are available.

The safety and wellbeing of our residents continues to be our top priority. We are doing everything we can to prevent COVID-19 from entering **Bland County Nursing and Rehab**, including staying in very close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps during this pandemic.

We are taking steps based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for expanded list of symptoms
- Restricting visitation and entry of people to the building
- Proactively testing staff and residents for COVID-19 based on current protocols
- Postponing communal activities
- Increasing PPE par levels
- And CDC/CMS recommendations

We also understand that connecting with family members is incredibly important to our residents. Additionally, we encourage family members to connect with their loved ones through video chat, calling or facetime. We can also arrange for window visits. Please let us know by contacting Anna Laura May at AnnaLaura.May@kissito.org or calling me at 276-688-4141 should we need to schedule this for you.

We need your help in battling COVID-19. Please visit the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) to learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community.

This is a difficult time for everyone. We will continue to provide you with updates. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus.

We know that you may have questions and we encourage you to contact our center. Please call us at 276-688-4141, email us at AnnaLaura.May@kissito.org, or visit our website www.kissito.org.

Sincerely,

Anna Laura May, Chief Administrative Officer