



South Peninsula Hospital  
Long Term Care  
4300 Bartlett Street  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-0233 – Main

## Long Term Care

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September 19, 2020

Dear Resident, Family Member, and/or Legal Representative:

This week the State of Alaska published the *long term care facility testing plan*, as Appendix A in a tentative and phased re-opening plan. The guidance is a blend of state and federal rules based on community positivity rates. The Homer community is part of the Kenai Peninsula area. To put it very simply, we are following a testing protocol based on geographical COVID+ rates. As long as the Kenai Peninsula positivity rate is <5%, we will test all employees every 30 days. Higher positivity rates (5 – 9% and >10%) require more frequent testing.

Since our last communication and as of the date of this letter, no COVID cases are detected in employees or residents. All of the residents are well and without signs or symptoms of viral illness. Our LTC has not have a positive resident COVID case during this pandemic. This speaks to the care our employees are taking to keep the residents safe. Resident safety is our top priority. We are doing everything we can to ensure we prevent the spread of any viral illness including COVID-19 within our facility.

Per the guidelines we are required to test the residents again, prior to lightening any restrictions. All CMS (Medicare and Medicaid) rules are tied to federal regulation and our compliance with those regulations. Questions regarding testing of residents should be directed to our Medical Director, Dr. Teresa Johnson. You may call the nurses station (907-235-0233) to contact Dr. Johnson. Family and legal representatives would be notified immediately following any resident-positive test result. Moving forward, any new positive cases in employees or residents compel us to move back into Phase I (lockdown).

Daily health screens including temperature checks for all residents and staff continue and we closely monitor for any sign of viral illness.

We will be communicating with you again very soon. Please call us with any questions. Hopefully, we will see our families back soon. When that occurs, strict guidance for infection control and prevention while in the facility must be followed and we will assist families with the protocols.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara L. Bigelow".

Barbara L. Bigelow, LTC Administrator  
907.821.1990

c: Cathy Myers, MSN, RN-BC; Director of Nursing (907.235.0230)  
Teresa Johnson, MD, SPH LTC Medical Director  
SPH Public Website

**Modes of Communication for this publication: SPH website and US Mail/email**