



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

Long Term Care

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

Sunday, October 11, 2020

We last wrote to you only 10 days ago. That communication outlined our plans to move into Phase II (limited visitation) on October 7th. As described in the last communication; the phased reopening plan is based on the Kenai Peninsula Borough COVID-19 positivity rates and detection of COVID-19 within the LTC staff or residents.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough COVID-19 positivity rate is currently greater than 5% (6.36% on the 9th), so under the State's regulations we are required to test all persons who interact with residents in long term care regularly. This past week when positivity rates were seen to be steadily rising in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, we went to a two-week testing cycle for employees. Unfortunately, we were notified late yesterday afternoon that one of our employees tested positive for COVID-19. What this means for our families is that we are required to move back to Phase I, which means visitation must stop, until further notice.

We immediately began working with the State Department of Epidemiology yesterday. We are following their recommendations and early today we will test the LTC residents. The cycle of testing for the employees will continue as planned. Daily health screens including temperature checks for all staff continue. Twice daily temperature checks for all residents continues and we closely monitor for any sign or symptom of viral illness. Cases of COVID-19 in Alaska have been steadily increasing since September. We ask that each of you supporting a loved one in the LTC facility and your community pay careful attention to the information published by State of Alaska public health leadership:

- *Do the 3 W's: Wear a mask, watch your distance, and wash your hands.*
- *Avoid the 3 C's: Crowded places, close contact settings and confined/enclosed spaces. Keep contacts limited and social circles small. Avoid indoor gatherings.*
- *Don't ride in cars with people who are not in your household bubble.*
- *Limit your errands/outings.*
- *Watch out for COVID-19 symptoms. Get tested even if you have just one symptom or mild symptoms.*
- *Don't be around others if you are not feeling well. Stay home and isolate immediately.*
- *If you test positive, let close contacts know so they can protect others.*
- *Quarantine quickly if you are exposed to COVID-19, for a full 14 days.*
- *Consider getting tested 5-14 days after any possible exposure.*
- *Protect our health care system – get your flu shot, stay safe.*

Please call us for additional information or clarity on the mandate to return to Phase I (no visitation).

Respectfully,

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 (907.235.0233)

SPH Public Website

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

