



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

Long Term Care

Dear Residents; Families and Guardians:

September 10, 2021

In keeping with our goal of transparency and federal regulations, this updated letter informs you that we have had five (5) new staff COVID-positives and numerous team members out on quarantine for viral-like illness this past week. Most of our recent-positive employees presented no exposure to the residents with two exceptions (and families were notified). Following State of Alaska, CMS and CDC guidance we COVID-tested all the residents twice in the past week. Many positives have been caught through our routine testing.

Almost 60% of our direct care team and all LTC leadership are fully vaccinated. We have also noted that most of our resident family visitors are fully vaccinated as well and we are grateful for that. Vaccinated staff are COVID-tested once weekly, un-vaccinated staff test twice weekly 3-4 days apart, and all residents are tested once weekly, unless a healthcare worker provided care to that resident and we follow a more frequent testing schedule for both the resident and the staff member.

There have been two recent announcements (likely you have this information from your preferred news media sources): *the federal government has announced that all healthcare workers in facilities who accept federal payment for services, must be fully vaccinated.* We await publication of the final rule and in the interim, *continue to encourage that all our staff become fully vaccinated.* The increase in cases across Alaska pose significant risk to all of us, especially those who are not vaccinated. Hospitals are running at capacity in the care of patients and this adversely impacts not on the hospital, but those of us who need care in a hospital for other emergent needs. **Please be vaccinated** and encourage others to do the same.

SPH LTC continues with its visitation policies; appointments are preferred, call us at 235-0233. Reminder that upon arrival, visitors are asked to call the LTC Nurses Station and wait outside the Physical Therapy entrance. A staff member will greet and escort visitors into the facility. Each visitor will be required to perform hand hygiene upon entry, as well as participate in a screening process by a LTC facility team member. Visitors with temperatures greater than 99.0 will not be allowed to visit. Visitors will sign a log when entering and exiting the LTC facility. Disruptive persons or those who choose not to follow facility infection prevention precautions will be asked to leave and restricted from visitation.

Thank You! Stay well and be safe. Practice mask-wearing and physical distancing in public. Continue with frequent handwashing to help us keep the residents safe

Kindly direct all questions to Ms. Kincaid 907.235.0230.

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

Barbara L Bigelow, MS, CDP^R, RHIA
Licensed Nursing Home Administrator

