

# New Jersey Outbreak Response Plan

Brandywine's Outbreak Response Plan follows the state and CDC guidance for responding to a COVID-19 outbreak. In the event of an outbreak of COVID-19, as defined by the New Jersey Department of Health, the community will respond with the following mitigation and containment actions and all corresponding Brandywine protocols, policies, and procedures will go into effect.

## Communication & Transparency

Brandywine has continued to share with our families, residents and team members detailed and up-to-date information, far beyond what was required or even recommended by any governmental or regulatory agency. We believe that transparency is essential as we strive to continue to keep our families informed with pertinent data and specific information on the comprehensive safety efforts and protocols being employed each and every day to protect our residents and our dedicated team members.

Communication to all stakeholders at the onset, during and after the outbreak is part of our **Outbreak Response Plan**. Our policy includes the following protocols:

- The community will notify the local and state health and regulatory agencies.
- The community will notify families, team members and residents via email, by phone, in-person and/or written notification about the infectious outbreak that includes a plan for mitigation and containment and any impact to normal activities or operations.
- The community will send a cumulative weekly update via our Friday notification to all team members, residents, families and their representatives.
- While visitation restrictions are in place, the community will offer and assist with using other means of virtual communication via iPad, iPhone, Echo devices, Zoom, Facetime or other social media platforms
- The community will post signage within the building as in all other outbreaks (i.e. influenza, norovirus).

## Protection & Vigilance

Throughout this pandemic, Brandywine has implemented early and decisive measures to curb the transmission of the virus within our communities, including supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and extensive training on its proper use, restrictions on visitation, personalized services (in-suite dining, care, and support), universal COVID-19 testing, and more. Importantly, we require that all team members work in no other healthcare setting during the pandemic in order to reduce the potential for outside exposure.

Containment and mitigation protocols are part of our **Outbreak Response Plan**. Our policy includes the following protocols:

- The community will use dedicated care staff for COVID-19 positive or suspected resident(s).
- The community will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- The community will have identified room(s) or area to cohort positive COVID resident(s).
- The community will screen all team member who had contact with the positive or suspected resident(s) upon notification of an active case.
- The community will retest residents and team members based on guidance from the Executive Order.
- The community will restrict visitors from entering the community except for compassionate end-of-life visits as determined by the Executive Director.
- The community will continue screening all team members and essential personnel entering the community, which includes a questionnaire per CDC screening guidelines on symptoms and a temperature check.
- The community will monitor all residents and team members for any signs of communicable illnesses and report promptly.
- The community will continue weekly testing of all team members.
- The community will review all infection control policies related to handwashing, engineering and environmental controls.
- The community will restrict group dining and activities.
- The community will use telemedicine and telephone orders from physicians.
- The community will review hand hygiene, cough etiquette and social distancing with residents.
- The community will review infection control policy and proper PPE utilization with team members.

*The safety of our residents and our team members is our number one priority.*

