



12/03/2020

To enhance efforts to keep COVID-19 from entering and spreading through nursing homes, facilities are required to test residents and staff based on parameters and a frequency set forth by the HHS Secretary. Facilities can meet the testing requirements through the use of rapid point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing devices or through an arrangement with an offsite laboratory. Starting September of 2020, nursing homes are required to test staff as defined by CMS on a frequency basis ranging from once a month and up to twice a week. As stated in previous communications and notification, increase testing will assist in identifying asymptomatic individuals who have the potential to test positive.

On December 2nd, 2020, one staff member tested positive with the use of our Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 antigen test. This individual will remain in self-isolation and will not return to work until released by the Public Health Department.

As defined by CMS, we will continue to following their guidance as outlined below: *(continuing current testing procedures)*

CMS Definition of Outbreak Status

An "outbreak" as "any new case" that arises in a facility is defined as a new COVID-19 infection in any healthcare personnel or any nursing home-onset COVID-19 infection in a resident. Subsequent testing of all staff and residents that have tested negative must continue every 3-7 days until testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 among staff or residents for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result. Facilities in a CMS "outbreak status" may not conduct indoor visits except for compassionate care visits.

As mentioned above indoor visits with the expectation of compassionate care visits are not able to occur; however, we are able to conduct outdoor visitation weather pending. Thank you for your patience and support during these past few months, as we have all worked together to safely navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. This continues to be a very difficult time for everyone. We will continue to provide you with updates via our facility website at (www.clarksvilleskillednursing.com) located under the Newsletter/COVID19 tab.

Lastly, we need your help in battling COVID-19 within our community and surrounding area. Please visit the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/cononavirus) to learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community. Please continue to social distance/stay home if possible, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, use hand sanitizer, wear a mask, self-isolate if you are showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and seek medical assistance as necessary.

Continuing Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention at our Center include:

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms.
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred).
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose).
- Social distancing at least six feet between persons.
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene).
- Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit.

- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care).
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required.

Caring for Those You Care About,

Clarksville Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center