



## **COVID-19 Outbreak Response Plan**

The Delaney of Bridgewater operates in accordance with current guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and State and local guidance for infection prevention for the duration of the current Covid-19 pandemic.

This outbreak plan has been developed based on the requirements outlined in the Directive for the Resumption of Services in Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs), Assisted Living Residences (ALR), Comprehensive Personal Care Homes, Residential Health Care Facilities, and Dementia Care Homes (collectively "LTCFs" or "facilities")-Executive Order No. 20-026, August 10, 2020, N.J.S.A26:2H-12.87 and CMS 42CFR 483.80 in consultation with the community's infection prevention committee.

### **Our Goals:**

- To effectively manage and contain an outbreak when identified in the community;
- To promote an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment;
- To help prevent the development and transmission of COVID 19; and
- To mitigate adverse impact to resident, family members and staff wellbeing.

### **Lessons Learned**

The information contained in this plan and the recovery and re-opening plan is derived from our experiences with the COVID pandemic. These experiences include but are not limited to: the management of resident placement, creating a stockpile of PPE, maintaining sufficient cleaning supplies, obtaining a contract with a staffing agency, obtaining a contract with a lab for testing, providing constant and consistent staff training on the virus, PPE use, etc., increasing methods of communication with residents, families and staff, and increasing technology usage within our community.

### **Notification of residents, residents' families, visitors and staff**

Our community communicates with residents, their families or guardians, and staff regarding infectious disease outbreaks through various media to include but not limited to email updates, phone calls, virtual conference calls, webinars, in-person meetings (where appropriate), printed flyers, postings and newsletters, and through the use of the community's in-house digital telecommunication system (TouchTown) and cable channel, and website.

An outbreak will be reported to residents, families and staff by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following the occurrence of either a single confirmed infection of COVID 19, or three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours of reach other and regular updates will follow weekly or more often as needed.

As applicable, notifications for all groups will include:

- Mitigating actions to prevent/reduce transmission
- Changes to normal operations of the community (for example, discontinuation of group activities or congregate dining).
- Notifications will be updated weekly, at a minimum.

Delaney of Bridgewater COVID Hot Line: 732-648-6133

## **Identification**

An outbreak will be identified utilizing current information from the NJ DOH, CDC or CMS as communicated to The Delaney of Bridgewater.

- $\geq 1$  probable or confirmed COVID-19 case in a resident or staff member;
- $\geq 3$  cases of acute illness compatible with COVID-19 in residents with onset within a 72 hour period

## **Isolation and Cohorting Isolation**

The Delaney of Bridgewater offers only individual apartments in Assisted Living and there is no sharing of apartments between residents (couples cohabitating/married are an exception to this).

- Upon identification of an outbreak, the Community will isolate the infected individuals in their apartments.
- Anyone entering the room will don appropriate PPE before entering, in accordance with the current guidelines from NJ DOH, CDC or CMS. Most commonly, this would be a face mask, gloves, gowns, and eye protection.
- The Community will strive to assign consistent staff to these residents to prevent transmission of germs to non-infected residents.

In our Memory Care neighborhood, the majority of residences are private accommodations. For those residents residing in a companion suite alternative placement in a private suite or placement in a suite with another positive resident be sought out.

Isolation and cohorting will continue until the outbreak is resolved.

## **Interventions for Infection Prevention**

- Development of Infection Prevention Policies and Procedures, performing environmental rounds, communicable disease surveillance and competency for staff regarding infection prevention practices.
- Regular environmental rounds.
- Infection Prevention Quality Indicators: Hand Hygiene Monitoring.
- Infection Prevention Education: Education on Covid-19 Transmission and Controls, CDC Guidelines, Donning and Doffing of PPE.
- Develop Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)

In the event of an outbreak the Infection Prevention Team listed below will meet to monitor the outbreak and initiate any needed changes. Local and state department of health will be apprised as required.

- Executive Director
- Infection Preventionist Consultant
- Director of Health Services
- Director of Plant Operations
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Director of Culinary Services
- Director of Life Enrichment
- Director of Memory Care

## **Availability of Laboratory Testing**

The Community has contracted with a certified laboratory service provider to ensure that routine and stat diagnostic services are readily available to test all residents upon order of their physician and all staff members via order of the Director of the NJ Department of Health.

## **Protocols for Assessing Visitor and Staff Illness**

- The Executive Director, in conjunction with \_\_\_\_\_, has the authority to restrict or ban community visitation during outbreaks.

- Signage at the community's entrance discourages anyone from visiting when they have potentially contagious infections. Visitors who are symptomatic of communicable diseases may be denied visitation until appropriate evaluation and treatment of the visitor has been established.
- **Protocol for Assessing Visitors:**
  - Upon arrival to The Delaney of Bridgewater, visitors will enter the community at its main entrance and stop at the receptionist desk for screening.
  - At that time, the receptionist will screen the visitor for symptoms, travel, etc. (current requirements from State and Local Health Departments) and take the visitor's temperature.
  - If the answer to any of the screening questions is "yes" or the visitor has a temperature in excess of 100.4F, the visitor will not be permitted entry.
- **Protocols for Staff Illness**
  - Staff will be educated to monitor themselves for signs/symptoms, and to not come to work if they are exhibiting these signs/symptoms.
  - Staff will be screened at a main entry door prior to every shift for symptoms, temperature and travel status, as appropriate.
  - Staff who become symptomatic or ill upon arrival to work or become sick during the day will be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately.
  - Staff will be provided with proper education and PPE in response to any outbreak.

## **Policies to Conduct Routine Monitoring of Residents and Staff**

Residents and staff will be tested in accordance with State and Local Departments of Health, CDC or CMS guidelines in place at the time of the outbreak. Residents will be assessed every shift (or per current DOH requirements) for signs and symptoms of the disease.

## **Policies for Reporting Outbreaks**

Reportable infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases will be reported to appropriate city, county and/or state health department officials by the Executive Director in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Any resident(s) or staff suspected or diagnosed as having a reportable communicable/infectious disease according to State-specific criteria, such information shall be promptly reported to appropriate local and/or state health department officials. The Executive Director will ensure the community is current on all requirements and reporting is timely as required.

## **Protocol When Visitation is Curtailed**

The community will provide virtual visitation through multiple sources i.e., Zoom Meetings, Skype, FaceTime, etc. as well as window visits. The Life Enrichment Department oversees the community's virtual visitation program. Virtual visitation may be requested through any community team member. A member of the Life Enrichment Department/designee will schedule the date/time of the visit. We encourage virtual visits between residents and family members weekly.

### **Indoor, End-of-Life, Compassionate Care, and Essential Caregiver Visitation**

Indoor, End-of-Life, Compassionate Care, and Essential Caregiver Visitation is allowed for residents, based on written protocols and policies. Policies are communicated to residents and families in writing, in person and by email.

### **Securing Additional Staff in the Event of an Outbreak or Emergency**

In the event of a staff crisis situation, the following considerations will be made based on need and resource availability:

- Staff will be cross trained to work outside normal service area should staffing levels be compromised.
- Use of all management personnel.
- Utilize off-duty staff for specific designated times during emergency operations.
- Suspend vacation requests during period of outbreak.
- Overtime and/or Hazard Pay.
- Staffing agency contracts will be maintained and utilized.
- Continuous hiring will be maintained.
- Request staff from local facilities not experiencing an outbreak.
- Suspension of admissions.