

## The Evergreens COVID-19 Outbreak Plan

**IDENTIFICATION:** An outbreak will be identified utilizing current guidance from State of New Jersey - Department of Health (NJ-DOH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As of 8/2021, based on such guidance, an “outbreak” will be declared, as follows:

### LONG TERM CARE (WillowBrooke Court)/ASSISTED LIVING (Oakbridge Terrace)

- ≥1 probable or confirmed COVID-19 case in a resident or staff member
- ≥3 cases of acute illness compatible with COVID-19 in residents with onset within a 72h period

**OUTBREAK CONCLUSION:** Outbreaks are considered concluded when there are no new symptomatic/asymptomatic probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases after 28 days (2 incubation periods) has passed since the last case’s onset date or specimen collection date (whichever is later).

### 1. ISOLATION and COHORTING

#### ISOLATION:

- Upon identification of an outbreak, the community will isolate the infected individuals in their rooms or apartments.
- Anyone entering the room will don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) before entering, in accordance with the current guidelines from NJ-DOH, CDC or CMS. Most commonly, this would be face mask, gloves, gowns, and eye protection.
- If able, the community will seek to cohort infected residents in one area of the facility; a separate unit or wing would be ideal.
- The community will assign consistent staff to this cohort area in order to prevent transmission to non-infected residents.

#### COHORTING

- Cohorts will be made up as follows:
  - Positive
  - Negative/Exposed
  - Negative/Not Exposed
  - New/Re-Admissions
- Isolation and cohorting will continue until the outbreak is concluded.
- WillowBrooke Court has a designated isolation area comprised of three rooms (221, 222 and 223), which will be made available, when needed.
- Residents will be returned to their original rooms when isolation/cohorting is no longer required.

### 2. Notification of residents, residents’ families, visitors and staff

- a. Once an outbreak is identified, residents and family members will be notified via reverse 911 phone calls.
- b. Residents and families will also be notified of the community's outbreak status via email blast. This will be provided within 24 hours of receiving the positive test result (resident or staff).
- c. Visitors will be notified of the community's outbreak status via phone calls and posting (to stop visitation) on entry doors.
- d. Staff will be notified of the community's outbreak status via email blast and written internal communications.
- e. As applicable, notifications for all groups will include:
  - i. Mitigating actions to prevent/reduce transmission
  - ii. Restriction of certain activities and programs (such as of group activities or congregate dining).

### **3. Availability of Laboratory Testing**

- a. The community has a contract with Synergy Medical Laboratory (Keyport, NJ), a certified laboratory services provider with the ability to test all residents upon order of their physicians and all staff members when needed.
- b. The community also carries a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Waiver to conduct rapid tests on-site of residents, staff and visitors.

### **4. Protocols for Assessing Visitor Illness**

- a. Upon arrival to the community, visitors will be screened at the security entrance by trained personnel using questions based on guidelines issued by CDC, NJ-DOH and the community's own protocols. Visitors' temperatures will also be taken at this time.
- b. If the visitor is to be admitted, he/she will be directed to enter the facility through designated doors.
- c. If the visitor failed any of the screening questions, or if the visitor has a temperature in excess of 100.4F, the visitor will be denied access to the facility.

### **5. Protocols for Staff Illness**

- a. Staff will be educated to monitor themselves for signs/symptoms of COVID-19, and instructed not to come to work if they are exhibiting signs/symptoms of COVID-19.
- b. Staff will be screened for symptoms, temperature and travel status, as appropriate, at the security entrance prior to every shift.
- c. Staff will be provided with proper education and PPE in response to any outbreak.

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

- a. Residents and staff will be tested in accordance with the prevailing guidelines issued by State and Local Departments of Health, CDC or CMS in the event of an outbreak.
- b. Residents will be assessed every shift (or as per prevailing NJ-DOH requirements) for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

### **7. Policies for Reporting Outbreaks**

- a. All mandated reporting to public health officials will be completed by the Administrator, or his or her designee, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- b. The Administrator will ensure that the community is in compliance with all requirements and that required reporting is timely.

### **8. Protocol When Visitation is Curtailed**

- a. Personnel in the Activity Department will be responsible for assisting residents with

“virtual visits” with their family members and friends (e.g. FaceTime, Zoom, etc.) or with window visits or phone calls.

**9. Strategies for Securing Additional Staff in the Event of an Outbreak or Emergency**

- a. A policy for staffing during an emergency has been established.
- b. Overtime will be permitted according to staff requests
- c. Staffing agency contracts will be maintained and utilized.
- d. Continuous hiring will be maintained.
- e. NJ-DOH, CMS and CDC waivers of staffing standards will be utilized, if necessary.