

Community Memorial Health Center COVID19 Education & Update

We are all living in a Pandemic for the first time. There is no book of answers, there are only people to take care of. That is what Community Memorial does each and every day to the best of our ability. While we struggle with the restrictive guidance put out by CMS and interpreted by DHHS, we are obligated to do the best we can to protect our staff and residents. We are empathetic with the impact this has had on residents and families and we will continue to do the best we can to increase social interaction while maintaining a safe environment.

Community Memorial Health Center would like to provide education to the public on the scrutiny and standards that Long-Term Care is held to for the prevention of COVID19. We also will extend the offer and enhance our public awareness of the Federal Regulations on an ongoing basis during this pandemic.

There are many regulations and restrictions that Long-Term Care Facilities must follow. At this time, if a facility has **one** positive COVID19 resident case, they will be surveyed by the state agency. The state agency performs an "COVID-19 Focused Survey". If the facility is found to be out of compliance and not following the guidelines they will be issued up to Immediate Jeopardy "IJ". Depending on the findings of the survey agency on whether the facility is following the regulations established, citations could include Directed Plan of Correction, Denial of Payment for New Admissions for 45 days, and Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP) ranging from \$5,000/day to \$20,000/day.

In March 2020, the Pandemic started. Community Memorial started at that time to find creative ways to adapt the facility and keep the residents safe. Two of our amenity rooms; our large activity room and our beauty shop, became isolation rooms/end of life visitation rooms. This created a space for residents to be located off the hallway for visits to help decrease any kind of exposure to our residents. Due to resident requests and lessened restrictions, the beauty shop has been put back in place. The beauty shop was one of those isolation rooms. The other isolation room (our large activity room) had to be turned into a staff testing room which has its own set of restrictive guidelines. The testing room is for the new CMS requirement of COVID19 testing. There are three categories of testing, routine, outbreak, and symptomatic. At this time Community Memorial is conducting "routine staff testing" of staff every thirty days based on the county positivity rate of less than 5%. In addition, our small activity area had to be turned into a room for daily health screenings of all scheduled employees, and our front conference room is being used for family visits. We are trying to adapt all that we can to enhance our resident's lives, meet requirements, and keep the pandemic of COVID 19 out of our building. Other guidelines that must be followed pertain to: Visitors, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Travel of staff, Return to Work, Isolation, Zoning and Cohorting, Employee Screening, Infection Preventions and Control Measures, Source Control, Cleaning Procedures, Education, Notification, and Weekly Reporting.

While these present challenges to our regular routines including family visits, CMHC is committed to assuring we do everything we can to care for our residents and their families. We will re-evaluate all possible steps we can take to both stay in compliance and maintain social interactions.

Community Memorial will provide more education to the public via social media and news outlets. Thank you all for your patience during the pandemic as we take care of the loved ones of this community and surrounding area. Please feel free to reach out to Kally Cloeter, Administrator or Tim Groshans, Administrative Consultant if you have questions regarding practices or regulations.

Sincerely,

Community Memorial Health Center