

Lessons Learned from the COVID 19 Outbreak

There are heroes amongst all of us. With the struggles of COVID 19, the resilience of our staff and residents was evident. Additionally, our team was led by a dedicated administrator who was committed to leading the facility to positive outcomes and there was no task too small or too great for the nursing team. The dedicated CNAs and medication nurses worked tirelessly for hours to care of our residents. The Director of Nursing and nursing administration ensured that staff was educated and evaluated on COVID 19 policies and procedures. They monitored residents for status changes and employed all medical resources with commitment for the best possible outcome for each and every resident.

Environmental and maintenance diligently ensured that the job of cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces occurred multiple times a day. The kitchen staff and dieticians ensured that residents were provided with the nutrients needed to overcome the virus. Recreation and social work communicated with families and kept them informed, and at the same time, while assisting with meal service and other care areas when our staff on the front line could not make it.

There are heroes amongst all of us and every staff member arrived to work in the face of an invisible foe and relentlessly committed themselves to ensure the best for the residents at Hammonton Center. They were strong, committed and dedicated.

The following areas are highlighted in moving forward with the best possible outcomes:

1. Education is at the forefront of combating COVID 19 and keeping our staff and residents safe.
 - a. Our Facility has weekly in-servicing to staff members to ensure the most up to date information on COVID 19 is communicated.
 - b. Routine observation of staff hand washing and PPE doffing and donning is essential to reduce the transmission of COVID 19. The team is committed to exceeding industry standards and following all guidance from CDC and CMS.

2. Routine surveillance of staff and residents is key to identifying COVID 19.
 - a. Residents are screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID 19.
 - b. Residents with signs or symptoms of COVID 19 are immediately evaluated by one of our in-house medical personnel.
 - c. Staff is screened at the start of each shift. Staff with an elevated temperature or symptoms of COVID 19 are sent home.
 - d. COVID 19 testing is essential in identifying residents and staff that are asymptomatic. The facility is committed to ensuring that routine testing is in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

3. Environmental services play a key role in the process of combating COVID 19. We are committed to ensuring that the most up to industry standard is met to keep the resident's environment safe and free from contamination.
4. Nutrition and health are partners with driving away the negative effects of the virus. Not only are the essential nutrients provided in our daily meals, but in a time when family and friends cannot gather around the table, the dietary staff will make every effort to provide well-balanced meals that sooth the body as well as the soul.
5. Keeping residents and family in touch is important to us. Recreation, social work, and nursing are available to provide information to you and your family member when visiting is not allowed.