

Residents Test Negative for COVID-19 at Bethel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

CROTON-ON-HUDSON - Residents at Bethel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center have tested negative for COVID-19, according to a report just issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to the facility. The CDC conducted the tests on a number of residents last Friday, less than 24 hours after a 91 year-old, short-term resident tested positive for the virus at a local hospital, where she still remains.

“Needless to say, we are pleased with the CDC’s test results and what it means for our residents and their families,” says Beth Goldstein. “As the world is learning, COVID-19 is a fast-moving virus so we are especially glad to receive this good news. We applaud the quick response by the CDC and NYS Department of Health in assisting us with all aspects of this response,” she continued.

Another key measure taken was the immediate, 14 day self-quarantining of staff who had/or may have had direct contact with the resident. However, since then, the Department of Health has changed its recommendation for self-quarantining Health Care Personnel. Instead, they can self-monitor and wear appropriate Personal Protection Equipment for the 14 day incubation period in the workplace. This will ensure care is provided without any interruption to nursing home residents.

Ms. Goldstein has high praise for all Bethel staff and their response to the COVID-19 encounter. “Our employees have gone above and beyond in every way,” she says. “Clinical, non-clinical and administrative, everyone pitched in to implement protocols to make sure our residents were safe and received the care they needed. I am proud of their compassion and professionalism,” she continued.

In accordance with CDC protocols in managing the virus, the residents who were tested will continue to be monitored closely over the next two week period. Strict adherence to practices that ensure the safety of residents, and the staff treating them, have already been implemented.

This includes measures regarding room quarantines, frequent assessments and the appropriate personal protective equipment for staff such as masks, gloves, etc. Ongoing, frequent sanitization throughout the building is also part of the protocol.

In addition, residents who were not tested because they were not in regular or close proximity to the 91 year-old resident, receive daily screenings as a precautionary measure.

Preventative efforts against the virus at Bethel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center had already begun last week when Bethel took the initiative to stop all outside visitors from entering its buildings, prior to the directive issued by department of health. Staff were also screened each time they entered the building which included having their temperatures taken and answering a health assessment questionnaire.

Says Ms. Goldstein, “Clearly, these are unprecedented times. If we all do our part as individuals and as a community, we can stay strong and help those who need it most, especially our vulnerable residents who are relying on us. We will also continue to work closely with the CDC and NYS Department of Health in the days, weeks and months ahead,” she continued.

“Bethel has been serving the community for over 100 years, and doing so as a not for profit. We are proud of this service and look forward to another 100 years of making a difference in the lives of our seniors and their families,” says Ms. Goldstein.