



COVID-19 Policy

Purpose: To minimize chance of exposure to residents and staff

Policy: To promote quick recognition of those with the suspected virus

PROCEDURE

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. The virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. The general strategies that prevent the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care are the same strategies that these facilities use every day to detect and prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses, such as influenza.

PREVENT

1. Post signs at the entrance instructing visitors not to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
2. Keep residents, families, and employees educated and informed.
 - a. Describe what actions the facility is taking to protect them, including answering their questions and explaining what they can do to protect themselves and their residents.
3. Support hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cough etiquette by residents, visitors, and employees.
 - a. Have a supply of hand sanitizer easily accessible.
 - b. Have tissues and waste receptacles in easily accessible areas.
4. Provide the right supplies to ensure easy and correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
5. Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

1. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
3. If you are sick, stay home.
4. Keep residents with respiratory symptoms on droplet precautions, if indicated.
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



IDENTIFY AND ASSESS

1. Although the mode of transmission is still unclear, risk of infection is dependent on exposure to the illness.
2. Identify any associate, resident, or resident's family members who have traveled to a Level 3 country (Italy, South Korea, Iran, and China)—within the last 14 days or had close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 illness.
3. Monitor for symptoms of respiratory illness, such as coughing or shortness of breath.
4. If both exposure and illness are present:
 - a. Place a face mask on resident.
 - b. Isolate the resident in a private room or a separate area.
 - c. Call provider to have them moved to acute care setting, as they will need airborne precautions.
5. If noted in a family member or associate with known exposure, offer them a mask and ask them to be seen by their primary provider before they are able to return to the community.
6. Notify the local department of health with your findings and follow their recommendations.

ASSOCIATES

1. If you have an associate who has traveled to China or another Level 3 country (Iran, Italy or South Korea) or has been in contact with someone who has, do not allow them to work for fourteen (14) days to assure no symptoms develop.
2. Notify your local department of health or State Department of Health.