

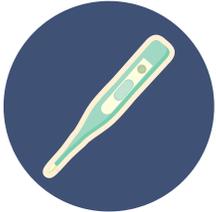
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Prevent the Spread: Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities

Rev. 3/12/20

Long Term Care Facilities can follow these guidelines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 amongst their residents, staff, and visitors.

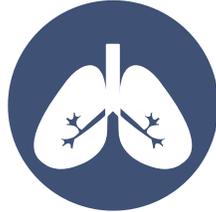
KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



Fever



Dry Cough



Shortness of Breath

Long Term Care Facilities concerned that a resident may be symptomatic of COVID-19 should contact the **Berrien County Health Department at 269.926.7121 immediately.**

KEEP RESPIRATORY GERMS FROM COMING INTO YOUR FACILITY

- **Actively screen and restrict** visitation by those who:
 - Have signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
 - Are experiencing respiratory illness or COVID-19 diagnosis or investigation for COVID-19.
 - Have an international travel history within the last 14 days to an area with sustained transmission (see CDC website for information on affected countries).
 - Reside in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.
- If screening is not an option, post signs at the entrance and other doors telling visitors to not visit if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection.
- Ensure sick leave policies **allow and encourage** employees to stay home if they or family members have symptoms of respiratory infection.

STOP THE SPREAD OF RESPIRATORY GERMS WITHIN YOUR FACILITY

- Encourage personal protective measures among residents, visitors, and staff, including regular handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Implement social distancing measures as feasible, such as reducing large gatherings, altering meal schedules to reduce mixing, and limiting programs with external staff.
- Limit visitors to only those who are absolutely necessary and implement screening of visitors for temperature and respiratory symptoms.
- Monitor residents and employees for fever or respiratory symptoms:
 - Restrict residents with fever or acute respiratory symptoms to their room. If they must leave the room for medically necessary procedures, have them wear a facemask.



STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS, CONTINUED

- Provide the right supplies to ensure ease and correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
 - Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident's room that clearly describe the type of precautions needed and required PPE.
 - Make PPE, including facemasks, eye protection, gowns, and gloves available immediately outside of the resident's room.
 - Position a trash can near the exit inside any resident room to make it easy for employees to discard PPE.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RESPIRATORY GERMS BETWEEN FACILITIES

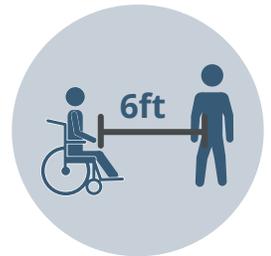
- Notify facilities prior to transferring a resident with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a higher level of care.
- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to the **Berrien County Health Department at 269.926.7121.**



WHAT TO DO NOW

PUT VISITOR LIMITATIONS IN PLACE

- In lieu of visits (either through limiting or discouraging), facilities can consider:
 - Offering alternative means of communication for people who would otherwise visit, such as virtual communications (phone, video-communication, etc.).
- When visitation is necessary or allowable, facilities should make efforts to allow for safe visitation for residents and loved ones. For example:
 - Suggest limiting physical contact with residents and others while in the facility. For example, practice social distances with no hand-shaking or hugging, and remaining six feet apart.
 - If possible, creating dedicated visiting areas (e.g., "clean rooms") near the entrance to the facility where residents can meet with visitors in a sanitized environment. Facilities should disinfect rooms after each resident-visitor meeting.



DETERMINE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR YOUR FACILITY

- Communicate with employees:
 - Ensure they have their own family emergency preparedness plans and have an appropriate supplies of food/water/medications on hand and back-up child care plans in place.
- Review sick leave policy and consider implications of high absenteeism; plan for how operations will continue if there is increasing absenteeism or other interruptions.

QUESTIONS? FIND MORE INFORMATION:

Call: **1-800-815-5485**

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