CLOROX HEALTHCARE™

Guide for Long-Term Facility Managers to Help Prepare for Potential Pandemic in Your Facility

What LTC leadership should know about COVID-19

Symptoms:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the symptoms include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause severe acute respiratory syndrome, pneumonia, kidney failure and even death.

How it spreads:

▶ The primary mode of transmission is person-to-person. The virus spreads by being in close contact (within about 6 ft.) with an infected person or through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The droplets can then land on a person's mouth or nose or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. An infected person not exhibiting symptoms can also transmit the virus to other people.

▶ It is also possible that the virus may spread from touching a surface that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.

Go to the CDC website for the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 **(CDC website)**
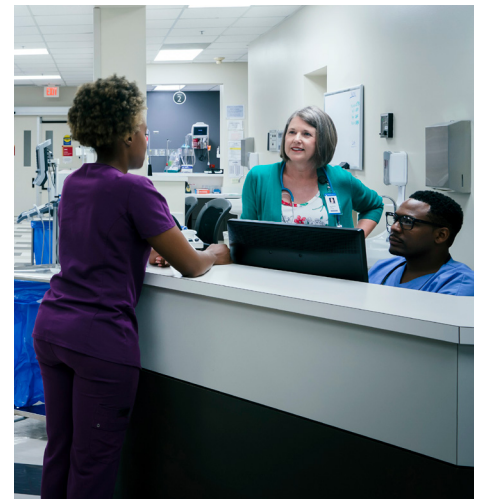
Steps you can take to prepare your healthcare staff[1]

Healthcare personnel (HCP) are on the front lines of caring for patients with confirmed or possible infection with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and have an increased risk of exposure to the virus that causes it, now identified as SARS-CoV-2. HCPs can minimize their risk of exposure when caring for confirmed or possible COVID-19 patients by following CDC infection prevention and control guidelines, including use of recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).

How You Can Protect Your Team of Healthcare Professionals

Healthcare personnel caring for patients with confirmed or possible COVID-19 should adhere to CDC recommendations for **infection prevention and control** (IPC):

▶ Assess and triage these patients with acute respiratory symptoms and risk factors for COVID-19 to minimize chances of exposure, including placing a facemask on the patient and isolating them in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR), if available.

▶ Use **Standard Precautions**, **Contact Precautions, and Airborne Precautions** and eye protection when caring for patients with confirmed or possible COVID-19.

▶ Perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub before and after all patient contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before putting on and upon removal of PPE, including gloves. Use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled.

▶ Practice how to properly **don, use and doff PPE** in a manner to prevent self-contamination.

1. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/caring-for-patients-H.pdf

- Perform aerosol-generating procedures, including collection of diagnostic respiratory specimens, in an AIIR, while following appropriate IPC practices, including use of appropriate PPE.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures are appropriate for COVID-19 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed. Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are recommended for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Management of laundry, foodservice utensils and medical waste should also be performed in accordance with routine procedures.

- **For help with understanding which products are effective against the virus causing COVID-19:**
    - Contact the manufacturer.
    - Look for a product on EPA's List N, which lists products that can be used against the virus per the EPA's Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance
    - For CloroxPro and Clorox Healthcare products eligible for use against SARS-CoV-2, visit the COVID-19 page on cloroxpro.com.

When to Contact Occupational Health Services

If you have an unprotected exposure (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE) to a confirmed or possible COVID-19 patient, contact your supervisor or occupational health immediately. If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), do not report to work. Contact your occupational health services. For more information for healthcare personnel, visit (CDC website)

If healthcare staff are potentially exposed to COVID-19, please see guidance here.

Steps you can take to prepare your residents

PREVENTION OF RESPIRATORY GERMS INTO THE FACILITY

- Post signs at the entrance instructing visitors not to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Assess residents' symptoms of respiratory infection upon admission to the facility and implement appropriate infection prevention practices for incoming symptomatic residents.

PREVENTION OF RESPIRATORY GERMS WITHIN THE FACILITY

- **Keep residents and employees informed.**
    - 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 fellow residents.
- **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 (if tolerated).
    - In general, for care of residents with undiagnosed respiratory infection use Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions with eye protection unless suspected diagnosis requires Airborne Precautions (e.g., tuberculosis).

▶ Healthcare personnel should monitor their local and state public health sources to understand COVID-19 activity in their community to help inform their evaluation of individuals with unknown respiratory illness. If there is transmission of COVID-19 in the community, in addition to implementing the precautions described above for residents with acute respiratory infection, facilities should also consult with public health authorities for additional guidance.

▶ **Support hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cough etiquette by residents, visitors and employees.**

  ▶ Ensure employees clean their hands according to CDC guidelines, including before and after contact with residents, after contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment, and after removing personal protective equipment (PPE).

    – Handwashing posters (CDC) — place them in the bathrooms, breakrooms and near hand washing stations and/or sinks (**English & Spanish**)

  ▶ Put alcohol-based hand rub in every resident room (ideally both inside and outside of the room).

  ▶ Make sure tissues are available and any sink is well-stocked with soap and paper towels for hand washing.

  ▶ Remind everyone to not touch their eyes, mouth, nose — this is one way germs can spread.

    – General good hygiene poster (CDC) — place them in visible areas like resident rooms, common areas, hallways, physical therapy, kitchen and dining areas (**English & Spanish**)

▶ **Identify dedicated employees to care for COVID-19 patients and provide infection control training.**

  ▶ Guidance on implementing recommended infection prevention practices is available in CDC's free online course — The Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training — which includes resources checklists for facilities and employees to use.

▶ **Keep up with your facility's cleaning and disinfecting protocol. Here are some tips on effective disinfecting practices**.

  ▶ Consider disinfecting daily all frequently touched surfaces in your facility:

Location	Commonly Contaminated Surfaces
Entryway & Lobby	Elevator buttons, hand rails
Dining Room	Door handles, chairs
Nurses' Station	Tables, charts, desk, stapler, phone
Team Room	Door handles, table, chair, light switch
Resident Room	Door handles, dresser, bedside table, call light
Activity Room	Staff refrigerator handle, faucet handle, food tray table, chair, game table
Shower Room	Door handles, faucet handle, hand rails

▶ Developing a cleaning plan for roles and responsibilities:

Item	Location	Shared or Personal Use?	When to clean?	Who's responsible for cleaning?	Product
Workstation on Wheels	Mobile	Shared	End of shift	Designated staff	Quat-alcohol wipes
Bedside commode	Resident Room	Personal or shared	After each use	Nurse assistant	Bleach wipes
Blood Glucose Meters	Nursing Station	Shared	After each use	Nurse	Bleach or Hydrogen Peroxide wipes
Physical Therapy Equipment	Rehab Gym	Shared	After each resident	Physical Therapy	Quat or Hydrogen Peroxide wipes

▶ Use checklists to ensure the proper cleaning order.

▶ Clean clockwise or counterclockwise: wipe in an S-pattern to reduce the transfer of dirt and pathogens.

▶ Clean from high to low: dirt or dust that is dislodged drops onto lower, dirty surfaces which are then cleaned.

▶ **Provide the right supplies to ensure easy and correct use of PPE.**

   ▶ Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident 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 room.

   ▶ Position a trash can near the exit inside any resident room to make it easy for employees to discard PPE.

PREVENTION 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 local health department, including your state HAI/AR coordinator.

Other Resources:

▶ How **COVID-19 spreads**

▶ **Clinical management** of COVID-19 patients

▶ **Infection prevention** and control recommendations for COVID-19

▶ Find your local health department website: **https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory**

▶ **Sign up** to receive alerts and updates directly from CDC during a pandemic **(https://www.cdc.gov/Other/emailupdates/)**

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