

The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing at Southpoint

1 Long Beach Road Island Park NY 11558

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY PLAN

Annex J: Infectious Disease/Pandemic Emergency

As the COVID-19 pandemic surged around the world, healthcare policy makers, management and staff have had to recognize a risk that was talked about, but never really prepared for. Complicating the response further was that this pandemic was caused by a new pathogen, (novel virus), and to which there was no natural immunity or vaccination. We are still learning about how this disease is transmitted, which population is the most vulnerable and the best course of treatment. As this pandemic (COVID-19) takes a terrible toll on the elderly and those sick with co-morbidities, Skilled Nursing Facilities congregate care setting were especially at risk during this outbreak. As a result of this, the State and Federal governments have enacted additional requirements for the safe operation of all SNF. This document lays out the required elements of new legal and regulatory responsibilities during a pandemic.

(R) = Required Element

* *NYSDOH regulation indicates both required and recommended elements need to be addressed in PEP*

Preparedness Tasks for all Infectious Disease Events

1. Staff Education on Infectious Diseases (R)

- The Facility Infection Preventionist (IP)/Inservice Coordinator will provide education on Infection Prevention and Management during orientation of new staff, as well as ongoing education on an annual basis and as needed to prepare all staff should a facility experience an outbreak of an infectious disease.
- The IP/Inservice coordinator will conduct annual competency-based education on the use of PPEs (hand hygiene and donning/doffing...) for all staff.
- The IP/Inservice Coordinator will provide in-service training for all staff on Infection Prevention policies and procedures as needed to prepare all staff in the event of an infectious outbreak including all CDC and State updates/guidance.

2. Develop/Review/Revise and Enforce Existing Infection Prevention Control, and Reporting Policies (R)

The facility will continue to review/revise and enforce existing infection prevention control and reporting policies. The Facility will update the Infection Control Manual, which is available in a digital and print form for all staff, annually or as may be required during an event. The facility management will consult with local Epidemiologist to ensure that any new regulations and/or areas of concern as related to Infection Prevention and Control are incorporated into the Facilities Infection Control Prevention Plans.

3 Conduct Routine/Ongoing, Infectious Disease Surveillance

- The Quality Assurance (QA) Committee will review all residents with infections as well as the usage of antibiotics, on a monthly basis so as to identify any trends and areas for improvement.
- The IDT team will identify any issues regarding infection control and prevention daily.
- The Director of Nursing (DON)/Designee will establish a Quality Assurance Performance Projects (QAPI) to identify root cause(s) of infections and update the facility action plans, as appropriate. The results of this analysis will be reported to the QA committee.
- All staff are to receive annual education re: reporting change in resident's condition using the STOP AND WATCH.
- Staff will identify the rate of infectious diseases and identify any significant increases in infection rates and will be addressed.
- Facility acquired infections will be tracked/reported by the Infection Preventionist.

4. Develop/Review/Revise Plan for Staff Testing

- The Facility will conduct staff testing, in accordance with NYS regulations and Epidemiology recommendations for a given infectious agent.
- Administrator/Designee will check daily for staff and resident testing results and take action in accordance with State and federal guidance.

5. Staff Access to Communicable Disease Reporting Tools (R)

- The facility has access to Health Commerce System (HCS), and all roles are assigned and updated as needed for reporting to NYSDOH.
- The following Staff Members have access to the NORA and HERDS surveys: Administrator, Director of Nursing, Infection Preventionist, and Assistant Director of Nursing. Should a change in staffing occur, the replacement staff member will be provided with log in access and Training for the NORA and HERDS Survey
- The IP/designee will enter any data in NHSN as per CMS/CDC guidance

6. Develop/Review/Revise Internal Policies and Procedures for Stocking Needed Supplies (R)

- The Administrator/Director of Nursing, Infection Control Practitioner and other appropriate personnel will review the Policies for stocking needed supplies.
- The facility has contracted with Pharmacy Vendor to arrange for 4-6 weeks supply of resident medications to be delivered should there be a Pandemic Emergency.
- The facility has established par Levels for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental cleaning agents based on pandemic usage.
- The facility has established par Levels for PPE.

7. Develop/Review/Revise Administrative Controls with regards to Visitation and Staff Wellness

- All sick calls will be monitored by Department Heads to identify any staff pattern or cluster of symptoms associated with infectious agent. Each Department will maintain a line list of sick calls and report any issues to IP/DON daily. All staff members are screened on entrance to the facility to include symptom check and temperature screening.
- Visitors will be informed of any visiting restriction related to an Infection Pandemic and visitation restriction will be enforced/lifted per NYSDOH guidelines.
- A contingency staffing plan is in place that identifies the minimum staffing needs and prioritizes critical and non-essential services, based on residents' needs and essential facility operations. The emergency staffing plan includes collaboration with local and regional DOH planning and CMS to address widespread healthcare staffing shortages during a crisis.

8. Develop/Review/Revise Environmental Controls related to Contaminated Waste (R)

- Areas for contaminated waste are clearly identified as per NYSDOH guidelines
- The facility shall follow all DOH regulation for the handling of contaminated waste. The onsite storage of waste shall be labeled and in accordance with all regulations. The handling policies are available in the Environmental Services Manual. Any staff involved in handling of contaminated product shall be trained in procedures prior to performing tasks and shall be given proper PPE.
- The facility will amend the Policy and Procedure on Biohazardous wastes as needed related to any new infective agents.

9. Develop/Review/Revise Vendor Supply Plan for food, water, and medication (R)

- The facility currently has a 3-4 days' supply of food and water available. This is monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure that it is intact and safely stored.
- The facility has adequate supply of stock medications for 4-6 weeks.
- The facility has access to a minimum of 2 weeks supply of needed cleaning/sanitizing agents. Supplies will be checked weekly and as needed during a Pandemic. A log will be kept by the Department head responsible for monitoring the supplies and will report to Administrator any specific needs and shortages.

10. Develop Plans to Ensure Residents are Cohorted based on their Infectious Status (R)

- Residents are isolated/co-horted based on their infection status in accordance with applicable NYSDOH and Centers for Disease Control guidance.
- The facility Administration maintains communication with Local Epidemiologist, NYS DOH, and CDC to ensure that all new guidelines and updates are being adhered to with respect to Infection Prevention.
- The Cohort will be divided into three groups: Unknown, Negative, and Positive as it relates to the infectious agent.
- The resident will have a comprehensive care plan developed indicating their Cohort Group and specific interventions needed.

11. Develop a Plan for Co-horting residents using a part of a unit, dedicated floor or wing, or group of rooms

- The Facility has dedicated a wing or group of rooms at the end of a unit in order to Cohort residents. This area will be clearly labeled with identifiers for its purpose.
- Appropriate transmission-based precautions will be adhered to for each of the Cohort Groups as stipulated by NYS DOH
- Staff will be educated on the location of this isolation/co-hort area/s and each specific requirement.
- Residents that require transfer to another Health Care Provider will have their Cohort status communicated to the receiving provider as well as the transporter and clearly documented on the transfer paper work.
- All attempts will be made to have dedicated caregivers assigned to each Cohort group and to minimize the number of different caregivers assigned.

12. Develop/Review/Revise a Plan to Ensure Social Distancing Measures

- The facility will review/ revise the Policy on Communal Dining Guidelines and Recreational Activities during a Pandemic to ensure that Social Distancing is adhered to in accordance with State and CDC guidance.
- The facility will review/revise the Policy on Recreational Activities during a Pandemic to ensure that Social Distancing is adhered to in accordance with State and CDC guidelines. Recreation Activities will be individualized for each resident.
- The facility will ensure staff break rooms and locker rooms allow for social distancing of staff
- All staff will be re-educated on these updates as needed
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13. Develop/Review/Revise a Plan to Recover/Return to Normal Operations

- The facility will adhere to directives as specified by, State and CDC guidance at the time of each specific infectious disease or pandemic event e.g., regarding how, when, which activities/procedures/restrictions may be eliminated, restored and the timing of when those changes may be executed.
- The facility will maintain communication with the local NYS DOH and CMS and follow guidelines for returning to normal operations. The decision for outside consultants will be made on a case by case basis taking into account medical necessity and infection levels in the community. During the recovery period residents and staff will continue to be monitored daily in order to identify any symptoms that could be related to the infectious agent.

Additional Preparedness Planning Tasks for Pandemic Events

1. Develop/Review/Revise a Pandemic Communication Plan (R)

- The Administrator in conjunction with the Social Service Director will ensure that there is an accurate list of each resident's Representative, and preference for type of communication.
- Communication of a pandemic includes utilizing established Staff Contact List to notify all staff members in all departments.

2. Develop/Review/Revise Plans for Protection of Staff, Residents, and Families Against Infection (R)

- Education of staff, residents, and representatives
- Screening of residents
- Screening of staff
- Visitor Restriction as indicated and in accordance with NYSDOH and CDC
- Proper use of PPE
- Cohorting of Residents and Staff

Response Tasks for All Infectious Disease Events

1. Guidance, Signage, Advisories

- The facility will obtain and maintain current guidance, signage advisories from the NYSDOH and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on disease-specific response actions.
- The Infection Preventionist will ensure that appropriate signage is visible in designated areas for newly emergent infectious agents
- The Infection Preventionist will ensure that there are clearly posted signs for cough etiquette, hand washing, and other hygiene measures in high visibility areas.
- The Infection Preventionist will ensure that appropriate signage is visible in designated areas to heighten awareness on cough etiquette, hand hygiene and other hygiene measures in high visible areas.

2. **Reporting Requirements (R)**

- The facility will adhere to all reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed communicable diseases as mandated under the New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR 2.10 Part 2), as well as by 10 NYCRR 415.19 (see Annex K of the CEMP toolkit for reporting requirements).
- The DON/Infection Preventionist will report communicable diseases via the NORA reporting system on the HCS
- The DON/Infection Preventionist will report communicable diseases on NHSN as directed by CMS.

3. **Signage** *(Will Refer to DOH Guidance, Signage, Advisories)*

4. **Limit Exposure**

- The facility will implement procedures to limit exposure between infected and non-infected persons and consider segregation of ill persons, in accordance with any applicable NYSDOH and CDC guidance, as well as with facility infection control and prevention program policies.
- Facility will Cohort residents according to their infection status
- Facility will monitor all residents to identify symptoms associated with infectious agent.
- Units will be quarantined in accordance with NYSDOH and CDC guidance and every effort will be made to cohort staff.
- Facility will follow all guidance from NYSDOH regarding visitation, communal dining, and activities, update policy and procedure with any changes and educate all staff with all updates/changes made.
- Facility will centralize entryways to ensure all persons entering the building are screened and authorized.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on entrance to facility, exit from elevators and other areas as required per CDC/DOH guidelines.

5. **Separate Staffing**

- The facility will implement procedures to ensure that as much as is possible, separate staffing is provided to care for each infection status cohort, including surge staffing strategies.

6. **Conduct Cleaning/Decontamination**

- The facility will conduct cleaning/decontamination in response to the infectious disease utilizing cleaning and disinfection product/agent specific to infectious disease/organism in accordance with any applicable NYSDOH and CDC guidance.

7. Educate Residents, Relatives, and Friends About the Disease and the Facility's Response (R)

- The facility will implement procedures to provide residents, relatives, and friends with education about the disease and the facility's response strategy at a level appropriate to their interests and need for information.
- All residents will receive updated information on the infective agent, mode of transmission, requirements to minimize transmission, and all changes that will affect their daily routines.

8. Policy and Procedures for Minimizing Exposure Risk

- The facility will contact all staff including Agencies, vendors, other relevant stakeholders on the facility's policies and procedures related to minimizing exposure risks to residents and staff.
- Consultants that service the residents in the facility will be notified and arrangements made for telehealth, remote chart review, or evaluating medically necessary services until the recovery phase according to State and CDC guidelines.

9. Advise Vendors, Staff, and other stakeholders on facility policies to minimize exposure risks to residents (R)

- Subject to any superseding New York State Executive Orders and/or NYSDOH guidance that may otherwise temporarily prohibit visitors, the facility will advise visitors and vendors to limit/discontinue visits to reduce exposure risk to residents and staff.
- Emergency staff including EMS will be informed of required PPE to enter facility
- Vendors will be directed to drop off needed supplies and deliveries in a designated area to avoid entering the building.
- The facility will implement closing the facility to new admissions in accordance with any NYSDOH directives relating to disease transmission

10. Limiting and Restriction of Visitation (R)

- The facility will limit and or restrict visitors as per the guidelines from the NYSDOH
- Residents and Representatives will be notified as to visitation restrictions and/or limitations as regulatory changes are made.

Additional Response Tasks for Pandemic Events

1. Ensure Staff Are Using PPE Properly

- Appropriate signage shall be posted at all entry points, and on each residents' door indicating the type of transmission-based precautions that are needed.
- All Staff will receive continues re-education and have competency done on the usage/donning and doffing of PPE.
- Infection Control rounds will be made by the DON, IP, and any designee to monitor for compliance with proper use of PPE
- The facility has a designated person to ensure adequate and available PPE is accessible on all shifts and staff are educated to report any PPE issues to their immediate Supervisor

2. Post a Copy of the Facility's PEP (R)

- The facility will post a copy of the facility's PEP in a form acceptable to the commissioner and make available immediately upon request.
- The PEP plan will be available for review and kept in a designated area.

3. The Facility Will Update Family Members and Guardians (R)

- The facility will communicate with Residents, Representatives as per their preference i.e. Email, text messaging, calls/robocalls and document all communication preference in the residents' medical record.
- During a pandemic, Representatives of residents that are symptomatic and/or has tested positive will be notified daily by Nursing staff as to the resident's status.
- Representatives will be notified when a resident experience a change in condition
- Representatives will be notified weekly on the status of the pandemic at the facility including the number of pandemic infections.
- The Hotline message will be updated within 24 hours indicating any newly confirmed cases and/or deaths related to the infectious agent.
- All residents will be provided with daily access to communicate with their representatives. The type of communication will be as per the resident's preference i.e. video conferencing/telephone calls, and/or email.

4. The Facility Will Update Families and Guardians Once a Week (R) – (See Section 3 Above)

5. Implement Mechanisms for Videoconferencing (R)

- The facility will provide residents and their representatives at no cost, daily access to remote videoconference or equivalent communication methods.
- The Director of Recreation/Designee/concierge, will arrange the time for all videoconferencing

6. Implement Process/Procedures for Hospitalized Residents (R)

- The facility will implement the following process/procedures to assure hospitalized residents will be admitted or readmitted to such residential health care facility or alternate care setting after treatment, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to 10 NYCRR 415.3(i)(3)(iii), 415.19, and 415(i); and 42 CFR 483.15(e).
- Prior to Admission/readmission the DON/designee will review hospital records to determine resident needs and facility's ability to provide care including cohorting and treatment needs.

7. Preserving a Resident's Place (R)

- The facility will implement processes to preserve a resident's place in a residential health care facility if such resident is hospitalized, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to 18 NYCRR 505.9(d)(6) and 42 CFR 483.15(e).

8. The Facility's Plan to Maintain at least a two-month supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (R)

- The facility has implemented procedures to maintain at least a two-month (60 day) supply of PPE (including consideration of space for storage) or any superseding requirements under New York State Executive Orders and/or NYSDOH regulations governing PPE supply requirements executed during a specific disease outbreak or pandemic.
- This includes, but is not limited to:
 - N95 respirators
 - Face shield
 - Eye protection
 - Isolation gowns
 - Gloves
 - Masks
 - Sanitizer and disinfectants
 - Facility will calculate daily usage/burn rate to ensure adequate PPE

Recovery of all Infectious Disease Events

1. Activities/Procedures/Restrictions to be Eliminated or Restored (R)

- The facility will maintain review of, and implement procedures provided in NYSDOH and CDC recovery guidance that is issued at the time of each specific infectious disease or pandemic event, regarding how, when, which activities/procedures/restrictions may be eliminated, restored and the timing of when those changes may be executed.

2. Recovery/Return to Normal Operations (R)

- The facility will communicate any relevant activities regarding recovery/return to normal operations, with staff, families/guardians and other relevant stakeholders.
- The facility will ensure that during the recovery phase all residents and staff will be monitored and tested to identify any developing symptoms related to the infectious agent in accordance with State and CDC guidance.
- The facility will screen and test outside consultants that re-enter the facility, as per the NYS DOH guidelines during the recovery phase.