COVID-19

Prevent the Spread: Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF)

The general strategies the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in LTCF are the same strategies these facilities use every day to detect and prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses like influenza.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Fever

Dry Cough

Shortness of Breath

Long Term Care Facilities concerned that a resident, visitor, or employee may be a COVID-19 patient under investigation should contact the **Allegan County Health Department at (269) 673-5411 immediately**

KEEP RESPIRATORY GERMS FROM COMING INTO YOUR FACILITY

- **Actively screen** visitors for symptoms of respiratory infection (cough, sneezing, fever, fatigue, congestion)
  - 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
- Assess residents symptoms of respiratory infection upon admission to the facility and implement appropriate infection prevention practices for incoming symptomatic residents
- If there is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply concerns, contact the Allegan County Health Department at (269) 673-5411

STOP THE SPREAD OF RESPIRATORY GERMS WITHIN YOUR FACILITY

- Keep residents and employees informed
  - Follow Allegan County Health Department on social media **@AlleganCountyHD** or **www.allegancounty.org/health** for updated information in Allegan County
  - Visit **www.michigan.gov/coronavirus** for updated information from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
  - Visit **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus** for updated information from the CDC
  - Inform them on actions your facility is taking to protect them and answer questions they may have

- 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
  - 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
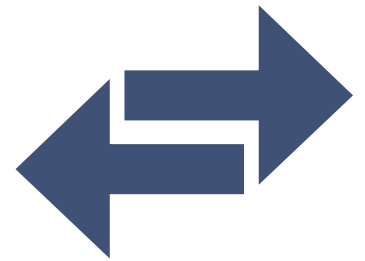
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS, CONTINUED

- Support hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as, cough etiquette by residents, visitors, and employees

- Provide the right supplies to ensure ease and correct use of 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 **Allegan County Health Department at (269)-673-5411**

WHAT TO DO NOW

PERFORM ROUTINE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective
- Schedule routine cleaning for all frequently touched surfaces. <u>Use the cleaning agents you normally use for these areas and follow the directions on the label</u>

DETERMINE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR YOUR ENTITY

- Communicate with employees
  - Ensure they have their own family emergency preparedness plans and have an appropriate stockpile of food/water/medications for family
  - See if they have the potential to work or learn remotely
  - Ensure they have child care plans in place
- Review sick leave policy and consider high absenteeism
- Contact insurance provider to learn about tele-medicine options and triage methods
- Plan for how operations will continue if there is increasing absenteeism or other interruptions
- Contact vendors or other entities to ensure they have emergency response plans in place

RESOURCES

- <u>CDC/COVID-19</u>
- <u>Occupational Health and Safety Administration</u>
- <u>MDHHS</u>

HEALTH
Department