



COVID-19 General Policy

Purpose

To prevent the development and transmission of COVID-19.

Policy Statement

Follow local public health and state regulations when applicable. Failure to adhere to infection prevention and clinical controls described in this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Procedures

- Entrance Screening
 - Screening of all persons entering the facility, with exception of emergency personnel, will be completed upon entry into the facility. (See also *Screening Process for Employees and Visitors*).
 - Any person who refuses screening will not be allowed entry into the facility.
 - Any person who screens positive for temperature or symptom criteria will not be permitted to enter the facility.
 - Employees who screen positive for temperature or symptom criteria will be instructed to exit facility and self-isolate.
 - Employees who develop signs and symptoms of respiratory illness while on duty will be excused from duty and instructed to self-isolate at home.
 - Center's Infection Preventionist should be informed of individuals, equipment, and locations the person encountered.
 - Employee will follow current policy for returning to work. (See also *Return to Work Guidelines for Healthcare Personnel*).
 - Determination of the need to test an employee for COVID-19 is made in consultation with medical provider and facility Infection Preventionist.
- Testing
 - Employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, students, and caregivers who provide care and services to patients within the facility will either be tested by the facility or will be required to provide proof of testing results per the facility's current testing frequency, based on CMS/state/local regulations. Facility residents will be tested per facility's current testing frequency, based on CMS/state/local regulations. (See also *COVID-10 Testing Requirements for Residents & Staff*).
 - Completed tests and results will be properly documented and reported as required. (See also *Notification & Reporting of Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19*).



COMPLETECARE — MANAGEMENT —

- Personnel working in the Center who are required to be tested and who refuse testing will be excluded from work.
- Screening of Residents
 - The COVID19 Screen UDA in PointClickCare (PCC) will be completed per state/local regulations to monitor patients for signs/symptoms of COVID-19. (See also *Management of Residents with Suspected or Actual COVID-19*).
- Environmental
 - Employees will perform respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
 - Clean and disinfect patient care items and the environment, especially high-touch surfaces, using appropriate EPA approved disinfectant and following manufacturer's instructions at least once a day.
- Hand Hygiene
 - Staff will perform hand hygiene per CDC guidelines.
 - Staff will assist/remind patients to complete hand hygiene as needed.
 - See also *Hand Hygiene*.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Follow state/local guidelines and current Complete Care policies for use of PPE within the facility.
 - If an employee is unable to wear a facemask due to disability, the facility will provide a face shield for the employee to wear if their disability permits. The face shield will be cleaned at least daily and replaced when damaged.
 - If facility is having difficulty obtaining PPE for reasons outside of their control, take actions to mitigate any resource shortages as soon as possible. Follow national and/or local guidelines for optimizing current supply.
- Patient Care
 - Newly admitted and/or re-admitted patients will be cohorted according to current CMS/state/local regulations and current Complete Care policy (see also *Admissions Protocol for COVID-19*).
 - The determination to test patients for COVID-19 will be based on medical provider decision and/or CMS/local/state entities. (See also *COVID-10 Testing Requirements for Residents & Staff*).
 - Cohorting of patients within the facility will be in accordance with current CMS/state/local regulations and current Complete Care policy.
 - Notify local Department of Health for patients who have severe respiratory infection or a cluster of respiratory illness (e.g., ≥ 3 patients or employees with new-onset respiratory symptoms within 72 hours).
 - For the patient who develops severe symptoms of illness and requires transfer to a hospital for a higher level of care, the facility will alert the emergency medical services and receiving facility of the patient's suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. While awaiting transfer, patient should wear a facemask (if tolerated) and be separated from others to the extent possible.
- Visitation



- Centers will allow visitation per CMS/state/local regulations and current Complete Care policy (see also *Visitation Policy During COVID-19*).
- Education
 - The center will provide COVID-19 education as indicated to employees, patients, and visitors.
- Relaxing Restrictions
 - Decisions to relax restrictions on group activities and communal dining will be made with careful review of a number of Center and community factors, and in compliance with CMS and state/local Department of Health requirements.
- Updates
 - Centers will be responsible for obtaining COVID-related updates from a reliable source (e.g., state/local Department of Health update calls, CDC website).
- COVID-19 Reporting
 - COVID-19 data required by CDC's National Health Safety Network (NHSN) will be electronically reported per CMS guidelines. (See also *Notification & Reporting of Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19*).
- Vaccination
 - When COVID-19 vaccine is available to the facility, each resident and staff member is offered the COVID-19 vaccine unless the immunization is medically contraindicated, or the resident or staff member has already been immunized.
 - Facility will report COVID-19 vaccine status of residents and staff, each dose of vaccine received, COVID-19 vaccination adverse events, and therapeutics administered to residents for treatment of COVID-19 per CMS guidelines. (See also *COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Residents & Staff*).