



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) FLORIDA

Policy: The Quality Assurance Committee is assigned to periodically review specific Infection Prevention and Control guidance for assisted living communities caring for residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19; all employees and visitors shall abide by federal, state, and local health department directive, in the event of any conflict between this policy and those directives the State directives shall govern.

This community will conduct education, surveillance, and infection control prevention strategies to reduce the risk of transmission of the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The community will implement actions according to Centers for Disease Control (CDC), State, County and Local Health Departments, State Survey Agency, and World Health Organization recommendations.

Procedure: Communication/Education facilitated by assigned Quality Assurance Nurse in collaboration with Executive Director and Wellness Director including but not limited to:

- Training on the implications of and basic prevention and control measures for COVID-19
- All training will be based on the language and reading level of the persons being trained and will include but is not limited to:
 - Signs and symptoms of respiratory illness including COVID-19
 - How to monitor residents for signs and symptoms of respiratory illness
 - How to keep residents, visitors, and staff safe by using correct infection control practices including hand hygiene and appropriate selection and use of PPE
 - Staying home when ill
 - PTO leave policies and recommended actions for unprotected exposures
- Communication methods will be initiated by the Executive Director and Wellness Director.
- The Executive Director is responsible for being involved in discussion of local/regional plans for inter-facility communication during an outbreak

- Communication plans include but are not limited to:
 - Visible signage at all entrances and throughout facility as necessary
 - Phone trees developed and implemented by the Executive Director in collaboration with the Wellness Director and maintained in the business office.
 - Letters and emails related to the status of COVID-19 in the facility to interested parties including but not limited to:
 - Family members, representative/responsible parties
 - Practitioners/extended practitioners
 - Contracted staff doing business in the facility. i.e., therapy, pharmacy providers, etc.
 - Consultants
 - Vendors
 - Sales and delivery staff
- The Executive Director maintains a current and accurate list of all other healthcare entities and the point of contacts including but not limited to:
 - Local hospitals
 - Hospital emergency medical services
 - Relevant community organizations including local/regional disaster preparedness organizations

Residents: This Community will allow in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects per Florida law during COVID-19 outbreak status.

- End of life situations
- A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
- A resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
- A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving and loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
- A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
- A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
- A resident has the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.
- Regardless of resident's Covid-19 status, visitation will be permitted according to Florida State Department of Health regulations.

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to visitors and vendors of positive residents.
- A resident and visitor are allowed to have physical contact if it is consensual by both parties while visiting at the community.

Family members/volunteers/visitors:

- Visitors will not be required to provide proof of vaccination or immunization status
- Reasons requirement for screening upon entry and prior to visitation
- Encourage not to visit if respiratory illness symptoms or fever
- Instruct to wash hands frequently during visit
- Instruct on use of Personal Protective Equipment while in facility if implemented
- Facility is following CDC guidance on prevention steps to take and facility in contact with local/state health department
- The Office Manager in collaboration with the Executive Director and Wellness Director is responsible for ensuring representative/responsible party contact information is always current and will verify conference information at least every 6 months.
- A long-term care provider may suspend in-person visits of a specific visitor if the visitor violates the provider’s policy and procedures.

Staff:

- All staff will be in-serviced and trained on COVID-19 procedures, including the infection control and visitation policy by the Executive Director, Wellness Director, and/or Supervisor upon hire, annually and as needed
 - All staff will sign off on training
 - All staff will successfully complete Infection Control in-service including but not limited to:
 - Symptom identification
 - Hand hygiene
 - Use of PPE
 - Reporting of symptoms
 - Cleaning and disinfecting procedures
 - Notification/reporting requirements

Environmental Infection Control:

- Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly

- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for COVID-19 in healthcare settings, including those resident care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed
- All environmental and direct care staff will be tested for competency of room cleaning