



Topic:
Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan/Outbreak

Policy:

It is the policy of the facility to prevent and or limit the risk of spread of infectious diseases. Tallwoods will follow CDC and DOH recommendations/guidelines in the event of an outbreak while decreasing the risk of social stigma against any person or group of people. This policy will be updated in accordance with new guidelines implemented by CDC and CMS. The most updated guidelines from CDC, CMS, State and/or Local Health departments shall supersede any previous policies and procedures related to infectious disease outbreaks.

Facility Visits: Family Members/Vendors/Volunteers

POLICY

TWCC allows visitation unless otherwise directed by department of health/local board of health. To ensure safe visitation for family members, vendors, and volunteers to the facility the following guidelines will be followed:

- There will be a mechanism in place to collect informed consent from family members, vendors, volunteers, and visitors.
- Sufficient PPE and cleaning/disinfection supplies will be in stock
- At all times - the facility will adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
- Any violation of the guidelines outlined in this policy will be addressed immediately by the IP Nurse or designee from the nursing department.
- This facility will not restrict visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause consistent with Resident Rights. Additionally, healthcare workers who are not employees of the facility but provide direct care to the facility's residents, such as hospice workers, dialysis technicians, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, clergy etc., will be permitted to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to an exposure to infectious diseases or show signs and symptoms of infectious diseases after being screened.

PROCEDURE

Resident Visitation and Visitor Screening

- Prior to being allowed to enter the facility, all persons, representatives, family members, friends, and significant others will be screened for infectious diseases (see screening protocols). Any individual unable to pass the screening process and/or not adhering to safe infection control practices will not be permitted to enter the facility will be asked to leave.
- The option to engage in video conferencing or other means of communication will be offered to such individuals upon request. The facility will follow all CDC and CMS guidelines of exemptions.

- The facility must receive informed consent from all persons, representatives, family members, friends, and significant others in writing that they are aware of the possible dangers of exposure to infectious diseases as a result of the visit and they must notify the facility as well as their physician if they experience any signs and symptoms of infectious diseases within the established guidelines.
- All required PPE will be supplied to visitors.
- Nurses will educate visitors on the appropriate use of all PPE/Infection Prevention
- During visitation, visitors will follow isolation requirements for resident.
- At the end of visitation, the individual will be required to disinfect according to CDC guidelines.

Family/Resident/Staff Notification:

- Weekly updates - Constant contact emails and texts, phone calls, standard mail, facility website shall be the method to inform families to keep them updated of facility's status regarding infectious disease outbreaks. It will also be posted on facility communication board in the front lobby.
- Residents are notified via the Tallwoods TV channel and communication letters handed out by staff.
- Staff are notified via smartlinx text message and Tallwoods Website.

PPE: Use of PPE

- Staff will be required to don appropriate protective equipment when caring for residents.
- Staff will be required to wear appropriate PPE when in contact with other staff members when the mode of transmission of illness is in a manner which could result in the spread of communicable diseases between staff members.
- Residents will be offered to put on masks if the mode of transmission is through respiratory droplets.
- Families coming to visit will be offered the appropriate PPE
- All required PPE will be supplied to staff, families, and residents as indicated.

Staff Screening:

- All staff entering the building will be screened and will complete questionnaire
- Receptionist/Screeener will take temperatures and provide the questionnaire to all agency staff and outside consultants.
- Any staff must follow facility sick policy and not come in to work while ill.
- Any staff that upon screening raises alert must report to IP nurse/designee immediately when having any of the following symptoms: a temperature of 99.9 or above, cough, sore throat, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste and smell. We will update guidelines per CDC recommendations.

Surveillance-Resident Active Screening:

- Residents shall be actively monitored for temperature, and signs and symptoms of infectious diseases.
- Residents identified with such symptoms will be treated according to CDC/CMS guidelines.
- Local and State Health Department will be immediately notified regarding any resident or Staff member that tests positive or is highly suspected to have reportable infectious diseases, or if there are any resident or staff deaths.

- Initiate and update the DOH illness line list for staff and residents for all experiencing any of the symptoms consistent with the illness implicated in the infectious disease outbreak.

Infection Control:

- Ensure staff adherence to appropriate PPE per CDC recommendations.
- Follow CDC guidelines regarding the discontinuance of transmission-based precautions isolation precautions-see policy
- Provide on-going education of staff regarding the importance of proper hand hygiene, donning and doffing PPE, Infectious diseases S/S, CDC updates, types of isolation precautions, use of appropriate PPE's and Infection control guidelines.
- Ensure that appropriate PPE, hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels readily available for staff and resident use.
- Visual Signs/Flyers regarding respiratory etiquette, handwashing, PPE, infectious diseases s/s will be posted throughout the facility.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using EPA registered products daily as per the CDC guidelines.
- Check CDC website and DOH releases to update policy/protocol as indicated.

Employees:

- Implement a hand shake free environment and refrain from unnecessary contact.
- Conduct periodic drills and in-services on preparedness plans for infectious disease emergencies.
- Appropriate steps will be taken against staff who do not follow our infectious disease outbreak plan.
- Employees who are well but who have been exposed to sick family member at home with communicable diseases should notify IP nurse or their supervisor in her absence and refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.
- In the event an employee test positive for communicable diseases, notify the IP Nurse designee asap.
- If an employee is confirmed to have communicable diseases, IP Nurse/designee should inform persons of their possible exposure to communicable diseases in the facility but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and HIPAA.
- All sick calls will be directed to the IP Nurse/designee during business hours, Nursing Supervisor/Designee on weekends and off shifts.
- All department heads and supervisors accepting sick calls will maintain call out log.
- Symptomatic staff members that cannot report to work will be referred to their physician and they will not return until cleared by them and the IP Nurse/designee following the return-to-work criteria.

Activities and Psycho Social:

- Recreation calendar will be updated to provide appropriate activities to residents.
- Residents who are on isolation will be provided by activities staff 1:1 room visits and coordinate video chats and phone calls as appropriate to ensure residents' psycho-social well-being is continuously addressed during the time of illness with communicable diseases.
- Activities director will ensure that residents on isolation do have psychosocial interaction following the guidelines.

Housekeeping

- Housekeeping protocols will be followed with increased cleaning schedules as per CDC recommendations for frequently visited and touched areas in the facility (bed rails, hand rails, door knobs, bathrooms, tables, bed side tables, call light cords, call light buttons, kiosks, keyboards, remote controls etc.).
- IP Nurse/Housekeeping director shall perform random checks of staff members to ensure thorough cleaning is taking place and the approved chemicals are being used. Housekeeping shall perform complete cleaning and disinfecting of room after resident is transferred to another unit/discharged.
- Housekeeping shall utilize EPA approved cleaning agents.
- Housekeeping personnel shall wear PPE per protocol.

Admissions/Readmissions:

- New and readmitted residents shall be tested for infectious diseases per CDC / CMS guidelines.
- TWCC will follow department of Health/ CDC guidelines for cohorting.

Social Services:

- Social services/designee shall maintain open communication with family members throughout the infectious disease outbreak emergency.
- Social Services/designee will notify family and residents of alternative ways to communicate.

Physician Services:

- Physicians/Nurse Practitioners that must enter the facility to care for the residents will complete the screening questionnaire, along with a temperature check upon arrival to the facility.
- Clinicians shall adhere to TWCC protocols for the use of PPE and other facility policies.
- Physicians shall be notified of their residents who have Infectious diseases and obtain appropriate orders
- Physicians can opt to utilize telehealth/telemedicine services to minimize risk for potential exposures.

PPE Supply:

- The administrator will ensure that there is enough PPE for day-to-day use and stockpiled.
- In case of shortage, PPE will be obtained from sister facilities and the facility will collaborate with OEM to receive PPE when needed.
- Isolation carts shall be checked and replenished as needed.

Therapy:

- Therapy staff shall adhere to facility protocols regarding infectious disease prevention.
- All equipment shall be cleaned and wiped down with EPA approved disinfectant after each resident treatment session.
- Manufacturer instructions for proper cleaning will be followed.
- Rehabilitation equipment shall be appropriately stored.
- Residents will receive therapy in the therapy gym as indicated unless they are on isolation precautions.
- The therapy staff shall follow appropriate handling of linen.

Cohort:

- Place a resident who exhibits symptoms of the infectious disease in appropriate isolation based upon facility policy, and notify primary physician and local public health authorities as indicated.
- If indicated, under the guidance of public health authorities, arrange a transfer of the suspected infectious person to the appropriate acute care center via emergency medical services as soon as possible.
- If the suspected infectious person requires care while awaiting transfer, follow policies for isolation, including all recommended PPE for staff at risk of exposure.
- Keep the number of staff assigned to enter the room of the isolated person to a minimum. Ideally, only specially trained staff and protected through vaccination, medically cleared and fit tested for respiratory protection will care for such residents.
- Provide all assigned staff additional “just in time” training and supervision in the mode of transmission of this infectious disease, and the use of the appropriate PPE.
- If feasible, ask the isolated person to wear a facemask while staff is in the room. Provide care to address essential needs.
- Conduct containment activities such as management of infectious wastes, terminal cleaning of the isolation room, contact tracing of exposure individuals, and monitoring for additional cases under the guidance of local health authorities, and in keeping with guidance from the CDC.
- TWCC will implement the isolation as described in the infection prevention and control plan and/or recommended by local, state, or federal public health authorities.
- Activate quarantine interventions for residents and staff with suspected exposure as directed by local and state public health authorities, and in keeping with guidance from the CDC.

Staffing:

In the event of a staffing emergency in this facility, the Administrator will make the decision to utilize emergency staffing strategies as necessary to provide for care and treatment of residents.

PROCEDURE:

Nursing Staffing Emergency: In the event that the facility has difficulty with staffing the nursing department, the following will take place:

- The DON/designee will remove tasks from the nursing department that does not need to be completed by a CNA or Nurse including but not limited to passing out water, answering call bells, passing out meal trays and snacks and designate these tasks to alternate employees such as recreation staff, social workers, Rehab staff and housekeeping.
- Nursing Administration (DON, ADON, Unit Managers, Supervisors, MDS) will assume duties of primary staff.
- The administrator will contact the following facilities to ask for assistance, Fountainview Care Center -Lakewood NJ and Somerset Woods Nursing and Rehab – Somerset NJ to assist us with Nurses and CNA's.
- The staffing coordinator will Contact all the staffing Agencies that we have contract with to request for staffing

Dietary staffing emergency: The Director of food service and the Administrator will review tasks and ask other departments for assistance.

- Residents may utilize disposable paper products.
- The dietary staff will prepare cold sandwiches, cold cereal and finger foods.

Housekeeping staffing emergency: The director of environmental services and Administrator will review tasks and ask other departments like Maintenance staff, nursing staff, Activities staff to assist.

- Garbage can be emptied by other staff from other departments.
- Help with washing linens.
- Help with washing resident personnel clothes
- Use disposable chuxs.

Maintenance staffing emergency:

- Call maintenance Director from Fountainview Care Center for assistance.