

Spectrum for Living

Intermediate Care Facility

Subject : COVID-19 Prevention and Control Plan Policy

DATE 8/20/20 (updated 4/1/2021)

The purpose of this policy is to ensure facility practices are in place to minimize exposures to respiratory pathogens including SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 virus. Signs and symptoms include, but are not limited to cough, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle or body ache, new loss of smell/taste, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. The incubation period for this virus is approximated at 7-14 days and can be transmitted from asymptomatic patients. The virus can live on surfaces for up to 3 days. Elderly persons and those with chronic medical conditions who test positive for COVID-19 often experience harsher symptoms which can lead to hospitalization and sometimes death.

Methods of Transmission:

- Close proximity/contact with a person infected with COVID-19.
- Exposure to respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- By touching a surface or object with the SARS-CoV-2 virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

Visitation to Spectrum for Living's Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Security/Reception at ICF will be screening for symptoms of COVID-19 and fevers over 99.9
- Symptoms may include cough, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle or body ache, new loss of smell/taste, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, sudden loss of taste or smell or diarrhea. If any visitor is experiencing symptoms, they will not be permitted in the building, and will be denied outdoor visitation.
- All visitors will be screened for a 14-day look back travel history in accordance with the current NJ state travel advisory at the front desk.
- For more information on the visitation criteria for Long Term Care facilities, please see Governor Murphy's Executive Directive No. 20-026, Executive Directive No.21-001 or visit:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/>

Residents with COVID-19 Care Procedures:

- If a resident has a fever of 99.9 or greater with cough, shortness of breath and sore throat, nursing staff and/or trained personnel will place a facemask on the resident (if tolerated) and isolate him/her.
- Nursing will notify the MD and family/guardian of these symptoms found during their assessment.
- Nursing will then follow the MD's telephone orders for symptoms observed.
- If the MD orders a transfer, nursing will call 911 and notify hospital ER of possible COVID-19 symptoms and that the transferring resident may require airborne isolation precautions.
- Only personnel providing direct care to a resident suspected to have COVID-19 shall enter the room and is required to wear the proper PPE (gown, mask, face shield, gloves.)
- The VP of Nursing, Clinical and Long Term Care services/designee will promptly notify state or local public health authorities of patients with known or suspected COVID-19, these residents are referred to as Persons Under Investigation, or PUI.

Cohorting:

Spectrum for Living's Intermediate Care Facility will be cohorting all residents who are found positive for COVID-19 and requires dedicated staff to remain on the COVID-19 unit when residents test positive for COVID-19. This will remain a standard of care throughout all shifts. Positive residents will be quarantined to their private rooms.

- Updates will be sent via Constant Contact to families/representatives when new cases present. Weekly updates will be provided to include outbreak updates and new/emerging protocols.
- Communication will be facilitated via telephone, video chat, Facetime, etc. with families/loved ones. The Client Coordinators/designee will field and schedule all appointments for in-house family visitation 24 hours in advance. **Please see: Resident Visitation Policy & Procedure**
- Stat or Emergency calls made to the building at 201-784-9400 will be directed to the Administrator on duty/designee. • For all other calls, concerns, requests, updates, please call and contact the facility Administrator, Susan Mancuso, RN, MSN at 201-784-9400, ext. 3101.

End of Life, Essential Caregiver Visitation Guidelines:

Hospice and/or compassionate service representatives, as well as one family member for each hospice patient who experiences a significant change to their condition may be

allowed to visit on a restricted schedule for the purposes of emotional support; this includes psycho-social or medical issues. The ICF also encourages courtyard window visits, FaceTime tablet chats, and telephonic conference calls for these families as well.

Staffing:

- All person's considered essential personnel including clinical vendors will continue to be screened at the front desk for symptoms, temperature checks, hand hygiene, wearing face masks, and will be expected to don/doff the proper PPE as determined by the task provided to the resident.
- The VP of Nursing, Clinical and Long-Term Care/designee along with the Chief of Human Resources/designee will follow all employees who exhibit any symptoms related to COVID-19 and those employees will not be permitted into the building for 7 days or as directed by the Center for Disease (CDC).
 - Staffing shortages will be monitored by the Director and Assistant Director of Medicaid Services for all direct care staff.
 - Shortages of staff in the Nursing Department will be maintained by the Nursing Care Coordinator/designee .
 - Paid overtime will be approved as needed to staff the facility.
 - Staff will be identified to work with COVID-19 positive residents.
 - In the event of an unexpected shortage of nurses or direct care staff, the contracted staffing agencies will be called to outsource professionals. Spectrum for Living's community staff can also be utilized in a staffing shortage.
 - The Emergency Operations Program and Plan will be activated as needed. Identifying an Incident Commander, Operations Chief, Logistics Chief and Finance /admin Chief as needed.
 - In a complete loss of line staff, the ICF will reach out to the Local Health Department, County Office of Emergency Management or state officials for help from the Medical Reserve Corp.
 - The ICF will continue to review and implement executive directives, waivers, and guidance available on the COVID-19 Temporary Operational Waivers and Guidelines page located at <http://www.nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/>.

Testing:

- All staff and outsourced staff will be tested as directed by the NJ Department of Health.
 - Residents will be tested as directed by the CDC and NJ Department of Health. thereafter testing will be utilized as needed based on COVID-19 symptoms.
- For more information related to testing procedures, please see: **Standing Order for COVID-19 Testing Policy & Procedure**

Training and Education:

- The Medical Director, VP of Nursing Clinical and Long Term Care Services and Nursing Care Coordinator will provide ongoing training and education to all the staff/caregivers re: COVID-19 pathology, pandemic trends, company policies and procedure, and local/state/federal guidelines.
- All staff will receive job or task-specific education and training on preventing transmission of infectious agents, including COVID-19, associated with healthcare during orientation to the facility and at least annually.
- This information will be updated periodically during ongoing education and training programs.

Education will include but is not limited to:

1. Signs/symptoms, complications, risk factors.
2. Handwashing, respiratory hygiene and infection control
3. Appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
4. OSHA workplace practices including infection control procedures to reduce exposure.

References:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
<https://www.nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/index.html>

For more information please call:

General COVID-19 Questions: 2-1-1

Medical COVID-19 Questions: 1-800-962-1253