

Things Long-Term Care Facilities Should Do Now



Coronavirus Disease
2019 (COVID-19)
Preparedness

Educate Residents, Healthcare Personnel (HCP), and Visitors

- Educate and train HCP
 - Reinforce sick leave policies. Remind HCP not to report to work when ill.
 - Reinforce adherence to infection prevention and control measures, including hand hygiene and selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Have HCP demonstrate competency with putting on and removing PPE.
 - Educate both facility-based and consultant personnel (e.g. wound care, podiatry, barber) and volunteers. Including consultants is important because they often provide care in multiple facilities and can be exposed or serve as a source of transmission.
 - Educate residents and families including:
 - Information about COVID-19.
 - Actions the facility is taking to protect them and their loved ones, including visitor restrictions.
 - Actions residents and families can take to protect themselves in the facility.
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Provide Supplies for Recommended Infection Prevention and Control Practices

- Hand hygiene supplies:
 - Put alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol in every resident room (ideally both inside and outside of the room) and other resident care and common areas (e.g. outside dining hall, in therapy gym).
 - Make sure sinks are well-stocked with soap and paper towels for handwashing.



- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette:
 - Make tissues and facemasks available for coughing people.
 - Consider designating staff to steward those supplies and encourage appropriate use by residents, visitors and staff.
 - Make necessary PPE available in areas where resident care is provided. Put a trash can near the exit inside the resident room to make it easy for staff to discard PPE prior to exiting the room, or before providing care for another resident in the same room. Facilities should have supplies of:
 - Facemasks
 - Respirators (if available and the facility has a respiratory protection program with trained, medically cleared, and fit-tested HCP)
 - Gowns
 - Gloves
 - Eye protection (i.e. face shield or goggles)
 - Consider implementing a respiratory protection program that is compliant with the OSHA respiratory protection standard for employees if not already in place. The program should include medical evaluations, training, and fit testing.
 - Environmental cleaning and disinfection:
 - Make sure that EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectants are available to allow for frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces and shared resident care equipment.
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