

## 11-25-2022 Weekly Clinical Update

On November 14<sup>th</sup> the AHCA NCAL State Affiliate meeting met and discussed the following agenda:

COVID has been hard on the long-term care profession in many, many ways, not the least of which is the erosion of trust of the long-term care staff in our professional leaders. AHCA NCAL is offering a **FREE** ...yes [FREE resource](#) for your staff to re-build trust in long term care management. (AHCA/NCAL username and password required to access it.) The overview of the program says: "Staff trust leaders when they believe that they care about them (empathy), have faith in their judgment and competence (logic), and think they are acting with the real person (authenticity). When trust is absent between leaders and staff in long term care facilities, vaccination uptake, patient safety, quality of care, and staff well-being are all negatively impacted.

AHCA/NCAL is equipping leaders with trust-building skills and practices through Building Trust: A Strategy to Improve Patient Safety, Staff Wellbeing & Vaccine Uptake in Long Term Care. Based on the science of trust building, this 4-lesson virtual program is full of tools and resources to help leaders build trust with staff."

Please consider having your management team take this **FREE** course that will impact the care provided in your organization. Every facility's greatest asset is their staff. They are worth this investment of time.

There was also open discussion on multiple vital issues to this profession. The State Affiliate representatives meet virtually monthly, so if you have issues that you want raised at the National level, please, let the Association know.

As we transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas, it would probably be advisable to review the life safety "rules" for decorations. First, decorating for the holidays is fun for the residents and the staff, along with visitors and it is a way for reminiscence and community involvement. The holidays should be uplifting for both residents and staff. Here are a few hints and tips related to the life safety code:

- Combustible decorations are only permitted if they are flame retardant OR when are in limited quantities such that the hazard of fire development and spread is not present, such as a handful of holiday cards attached to a door. A door completely covered with holiday cards would be considered excessive. "Any combustible decorations hung from doors or walls in corridors may be used with a waiver. Non-rated combustible decorations cannot exceed 20% of wall space in an exit egress corridor."
- Live Christmas trees are not permitted.
- Artificial Christmas trees are only permitted if they are labeled or identified as "flame retardant" or "flame resistive". It would be advisable to keep the box the tree came in accessible to prove the "flame retardant" condition, if requested. There are products that can be applied to artificial trees to meet this requirement, but documentation of date and product should be kept on hand.
- Use only UL listed holiday lights and wiring.
- Do not visually block egress, exit signage or any fire safety equipment with decorations, including fire alarm pull stations, visual fire alarm notification devices and fire extinguishers.

- Do not hang decorations from sprinkler heads.
- Do not use flame-producing decorations including candles.
- Do not use extension cords to power decorations.
- “Any combustible decorations hung from doors or walls in corridors may be used with a waiver. Non-rated combustible decorations cannot exceed 20% of wall space in an exit egress corridor.”
- Safe decorations include:
  - Artificial Christmas trees and decorations that are non-combustible or flame retardant
  - UL approved decorative lights used in supervised areas and turned off when not in use
  - UL approved outdoor lighting
  - Holiday decorations, including evergreen wreaths, ornaments, photos, etc can be used on residents’ doors and in hallways, as long as they do not exceed 3-1/2 inches in depth and they are not blocking the entrances or exits
  - Battery-operated flameless candles

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/CertificationandCompliance/LSC>