



PANDEMIC EMERGENCY PLAN 2022

Fulfillment of the Executive Directive No. 20-026- Outbreak Plan NJDOH

Mission Statement

The Facility will maintain an effective Pandemic Emergency Preparedness Plan. The Facility will comply with the executive orders and guidelines by Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), Centers for Communicable Diseases (CDC), New Jersey State Department of Health, and other regulatory agencies. This Plan will include the Facility's response and recovery to a natural and/or manmade disaster/hazard having an effect on a pandemic scale. The Facility has assessed and recognizes the risks associated with a pandemic and will utilize all available resources to meet the Long-term care population needs.

Introduction

The circumstances of infectious disease emergencies, including ones that rise to the level of a pandemic, vary due to multiple factors, including type of biological agent, scale of exposure, mode of transmission and intentionality. Infectious disease emergencies can include outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics. A pandemic is an outbreak of an infectious disease that affects people or animals over an extensive geographical area. The impact of a novel virus, to which the general population would have little or no immunity, is not likely to be predicted, however, scientifically has been forecasted by public health experts on numerous occasions, the lessons learned during the 2003 SARS outbreak and lately during the COVID-19 pandemic, have been the hallmark of the potential success of the Pandemic Emergency Preparedness Plan. As a Long-Term Care population, we are at increased risk of severe illness and mortality due to co morbidities and chronic illness. During a pandemic Long-Term Care Facilities may need to implement restrictive visitation privileges, manage shortages, increased death rates, instabilities in staffing and more difficult issues that may threaten the facility's ability to remain fully operational.

In an effort to mitigate the negative effects of a pandemic on this Long-term Care facility the following have been addressed

A. Staff Education on Infectious Diseases

- The Facility Infection Preventionist (IP) in conjunction with In-service Coordinator/Designee provides education on Infection Prevention and Management upon hire, annually and as needed for any identified infection prevention and control concerns /updates on an ongoing basis.
- The IP in conjunction with the In-service Coordinator/Designee will in-service all staff on Infection Prevention policies and procedures as needed for event of an infectious outbreak including all CDC and State updates/guidance.
- The facility has implemented an increased signage procedure and frequent educational update sessions to maintain current guidance from the NJSDOH and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on disease-specific response actions, through the facility IP and In-service coordinator.

See Infection Control In-service Education Program in PP-COVID-19



B. Infection Prevention Control, and Reporting Policies

- The facility has developed Infection Prevention and Control Policies consistent with current national pandemic(s) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The facility will conduct quarterly review and necessary revisions to enforce existing infection prevention control and reporting policies. As needed, the facility will communicate with regulatory bodies to ensure that any new regulations and, or areas of concern as related to Infection Control and Prevention (e.g. outbreaks) are incorporated into the Facilities Infection Control Prevention Plans. The Emergency Preparedness plan and procedure will be reviewed and revised in its entirety with the facility's inter-disciplinary team and attested once annually and as needed by the Administrator or designee.
- Monthly and as needed COVID-19 education is provided for all staff to maintain individual knowledge on SARS- CoV2, prevalence, signs and symptoms, transmission, prevention, and treatment.
- Hand hygiene, donning, and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE's) training and competencies will be ongoing with all facility staff.

See Facilities Infection and Prevention Program in PP-COVID-19

C. Conduct Routine/Ongoing, Infectious Disease Surveillance

At daily Clinical Morning Meeting, the IDT team will review any issues regarding infection control and prevention practices (ICP) that were identified during ICP Surveillance Rounds the previous day. Although deficient practices are corrected immediately upon observation with on-site teaching, follow up at the daily Clinical Morning Meeting is performed to share findings and disseminate current standards of ICP practices to management and senior leadership.

Resident infections as well as the usage of antibiotics will be reviewed on a monthly basis to identify developing trends and correct antiquated prescribing practices

All staff is educated during the on boarding process, annually and as needed to report all changes in resident condition to supervisory and nursing staff.

Rates of infectious diseases and detection of significant increases above those rates will be identified and addressed.

Infection surveillance will be conducted daily to collect and analyze ICP practices for subsequent translation and dissemination into practice.

Staff adherence to recommended IPC practices are monitored and audited using specific forms designed to capture, report, and correct deficient practices

The ICP Facility Assessment will be updated quarterly and as needed

See Policy: Infection Control Surveillance in PP-COVID-19

D. Staff Testing/Laboratory Services.

- The Facility will conduct staff testing, if indicated in accordance with current state and federal regulations and epidemiology recommendations for a given infectious agent.
- The facility shall have prearranged agreements with laboratory services to accommodate any testing of residents and staff including consultants and agency staff if required.
- The Administrator/ DNS/Designee will check daily for staff and resident testing results and take action in accordance with current State and federal guidance.
- Symptomatic individual identified: Staff- vaccinated and unvaccinated with signs and symptoms must be tested. Residents- vaccinated and unvaccinated with signs and symptoms must be tested.
- Testing in response to a newly identified COVID-19 positive staff or resident will completed as per CMS and



DOH guidance. Facility will consult applicable CMS/CDC and NJDOH guidance related to outbreaks, including NJ DOH's 'Outbreak Management Checklist for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes and other Post-Acute Care Settings' https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Outbreak_Management_Checklist.pdf.

- Routine Staff Testing- Staff who are not up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses (primary series and the first booster dose for which they are eligible) as per CDC recommendations are tested at a frequency determined by the County COVID-19 Level of Community Transmission. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> and included in the DOH's weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

Low (blue) & Moderate (yellow) - once a week; Substantial (orange) & High (red) - twice a week.

Routine Resident Testing- not recommended for routine testing.

- Refer to current CDC guidance for consideration of ongoing testing recommendations. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html>
- Residents who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and refusing testing are placed on TBP until the criteria for discontinuing TBP have been met. Reeducation and encouragement will be offered regularly. If outbreak testing has been triggered and an asymptomatic patient refuses testing, the facility will be vigilant thru additional monitoring to encourage resident to wear a face covering and practice effective hand hygiene until the procedures for outbreak testing have been completed.
- Staff who are tested outside of the facility (urgent care, personal healthcare provider etc.) must provide results when received to facility administration.
- Staff who refuse to be tested or do not provide results will not be allowed to work.
- Staff who test positive will be excluded from work following current CDC/DOH guidelines.
- Return to work will follow current CDC/DOH guidelines.



E. Staff Access to Communicable Disease Reporting Tools

- Designated staff is assigned to gather and analyze clinical data and subsequently access and report to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). All roles are assigned and updated, as needed, for reporting to NJSDOH.
- The facility will designate an NHSN Administrator and two additional users who are trained to gather, analyze, and submit facility data.
- The facility will designate an Infection Preventionists who meets the requirements in F 882 and will delegate 1-2 additional individuals to meet these requirements for coverage as needed.
- The Administrator is ultimately responsible for ensuring all reporting as required or mandated by state and federal agencies.

*See Annex 'P' Section 1 Communicable Disease Reporting See
Guidelines for Infectious Outbreak Investigation*

F. Internal Policies and Procedures for Stocking Needed Supplies

- The Medical Director, Director of Nursing, Infection Preventionist, Safety Officer, and other appropriate personnel will review the Policies for performing inventory and ensuring adequate supplies for delivery of care services.
- The facility has contracted with a Vendor Pharmacy to arrange for 4-6 weeks supply of prescribed resident medications to be delivered should there be a Pandemic Emergency.
- The facility has established par Levels for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental cleaning agents based on pandemic usage.
- The facility has established par Levels for PPE and currently maintains 60-day supply. The supply list includes but not limited to:
 - N95 respirators
 - Face shield
 - Eye protection
 - Gowns/isolation gowns
 - Gloves
 - Masks

Staff would be educated and competencies performed on properly donning, doffing and disposing of PPE's, and hand hygiene, to support the behavior and cultural change required to mitigate the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Signage would be posted throughout the building as reminders for staff.

*See Vendor Contracts in EMP (Emergency Management Plan) See
PPE tracker**



G. Administrative Controls with regards to Visitation and Staff Wellness

- All sick calls will be monitored by Department Director to identify any staff pattern or cluster of symptoms associated with infectious agent.
- Each Department Director will keep a list of sick calls and report any issues to IP/DNS/ Designee.
- Staff members will be screened, on entrance to the facility, to include symptom check as per DOH and CDC guidance.
- Visitors will be informed of any visitation restriction related to an Infection Pandemic. Any visitation restriction will be enforced/lifted as allowed by NJSDOH.
- A contingency staffing plan is in place that identifies the minimum staffing needs and prioritizes critical and Non-essential services based on residents’ needs and essential facility operations. The staffing plan includes collaboration with other care centers, staffing agencies, local and regional DOH planning and CMS to address widespread healthcare staffing shortages during a crisis.

See Policy on Visitation Guidelines during Pandemic in PP COVID-19

*See Policy on Staff Screening and Monitoring During a Pandemic. **

See Policy on Emergency Preparedness /Hazards Staffing Guidelines

H. Environmental Controls related to Contaminated Waste

- Areas for contaminated waste are clearly identified as per NJSDOH guidelines
- The facility environmental coordinator shall follow all Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and DOH rules for the handling of contaminated waste. The onsite storage of waste shall be labeled in accordance with all regulations. The handling policies are available in the Environmental Services Manual. Any staff involved in handling of contaminated product shall be trained in procedures prior to performing tasks and shall be given proper PPE.
- Facility will follow cleaning for standard terminal enhanced cleaning and Disinfection

See Policy on Control Methods in PP-COVID-19

See Policy on Handling of Biohazard Waste Materials See*

Terminal Room Cleaning Policy

I. Vendor Supply Plan for food, water, sanitizing agents medication, and other supplies

- Facility maintains a professional agreement with reliable vendors in order to procure adequate supplies as needed.
- Facility maintains a minimum supply of 96 hours of food and water. This is monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure that it is intact and safely stored
- Facility has adequate supply and access to medication from the Pharmacy and other related vendors.
- Facility has access to supplies of cleaning/sanitizing agents.
- Supply Logs will be kept by the Department Head who will be responsible for monitoring the supply and reporting to the Administrator/designee any shortages or needs.

Refer to Emergency Preparedness Manual & Policy on Subsistence Food and Water located within the CEMP



J. Develop Plans to Ensure Residents are Cohorted based on their Infectious Status

- The facility will cohort residents together who are colonized or infected with the same pathogen to confine their care to one area as well as to minimize contact and to prevent spread (Through the following Cohorting Plans).
- The facility will revise Cohorting based on state, federal and collaboration with Local Epidemiologist as guidance becomes available and necessary.

See Policy on Cohorting

K. Cohorting residents using a part of a unit, dedicated floor or wing, or group of rooms

- The Facility will dedicate a wing or group of rooms at the end of a unit in order to Cohort residents. This area will be clearly demarcated as isolation area.
- Appropriate transmission-based precautions will be adhered to for each of the Cohort Groups as stipulated by NJSDOH.
- Residents will be transferred based on their infection status in accordance with applicable NJSDOH and CDC guidance.
- All attempts will be made to have dedicated caregivers assigned to each Cohort group and to minimize the number of different caregivers assigned.
- Facility will revise cohorting based on DOH and CDC guidance becomes necessary.

See Policy on Cohorting

L. Plan to Ensure Social Distancing Measures

- The facility will follow the procedure on social distancing measures in accordance with State and CDC guidance to help control and prevent the spread of infections during outbreaks, including recreational activities and dining.
- The facility will post signage indicating directives for social distancing as per NJSDOH and CMS guidance.
- Residents and staff will be educated and monitored to maintain social distancing between residents and peers.

M. Return to Normal Operations

- Recovery services will focus on the needs of the residents and staff and help to restore the facility's pre-disaster physical, mental social and economic conditions.
- The facility will adhere to directives as specified by, State and CDC guidance at the time of each specific infectious disease or pandemic event e.g., regarding how, when, which activities/procedures/restrictions may be eliminated, restored and the timing of when those changes may be executed.
- The facility will maintain communication with the local NJSDOH and CMS and follow guidelines for returning to normal operations. During the recovery period residents and staff will continue to be monitored daily in order to identify any symptoms that could be related to the infectious agent.

Refer to Emergency Preparedness Manual, Recovery Annex



Additional Preparedness Planning Tasks for Pandemic Events

N. Pandemic Communication Plan

- The Administrator in conjunction with the Social Service Director will ensure that there is an accurate list of each resident's Representative, and preference for type of communication.
- Communication of a pandemic includes utilizing established Staff Contact List to notify all staff members in all departments.
- Facility will update website and provide family notification on the identification of any infectious disease outbreak of potential pandemic.

Refer to Section of PEP Additional Response Communication and Notifying Families/ Guardians and Weekly Update page 8

See Policy and Procedure on Communication During a Pandemic- in PP-COVID-19) Refer

to list of Resident representatives/contact information

Refer to Staff Contact List located in EMP

O. Plans for Protection of Staff, Residents, and Families Against Infection

- Education of staff, residents, and representatives
- Screening of residents
- Screening of staff
- Visitor Restriction as indicated and in accordance with NJDOH and CDC if applicable
- Proper use of PPE
- Cohorting of Residents and Staff

See Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedures in PP-COVID-19

Response Tasks for All Infectious Disease Events

P. Guidance, Signage, Advisories

- The facility will obtain and maintain current guidance, signage advisories from the NJDOH and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on disease-specific response actions.
- The Infection Preventionist/Designee will ensure that appropriate signage is visible in designated areas for newly emergent infectious agents
- The Infection Preventionist/Designee will ensure that appropriate signage is visible in designated areas to heighten awareness on cough etiquette, hand hygiene and other hygiene measures in high visible areas.

Refer to the CDC website for Signage – See also Annex 'P'



Q. Reporting Requirements

- The facility will assure it meets all reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed communicable diseases as mandated under the New Jersey State Statutory Requirement.

The DON/Infection Preventionist/Designee will be responsible to report communicable diseases via the reporting system on NHSN as directed by CMS.

R. Limit Exposure

- Facility will Cohort residents according to their infection status
- Facility will monitor all residents to identify symptoms associated with infectious agent.
- Units will be quarantined in accordance with NJSDOH and CDC guidance and every effort will be made to cohort staff.
- Facility will follow all guidance from NJDOH regarding visitation, communal dining, and activities and update policy and procedure and educate all staff.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on entrance to facility, exit from elevators, and according to NJDOH and CDC guidance

See Policy on Cohorting

S. Separate Staffing

- The facility will implement procedures to ensure that as much as is possible, separate staffing is provided to care for each infection status cohort, including surge staffing strategies.

See Policy on Emergency Preparedness /Hazards Staffing Guidelines See
Policy on Emergency Staffing

T. Conduct Cleaning/Decontamination

- The facility will conduct cleaning/decontamination in response to the infectious disease utilizing cleaning and disinfection product/agent specific to infectious disease/organism in accordance with any applicable NJDOH, EPA, and CDC guidance.

See Policy on Terminal Cleaning

See Policy on Environmental Cleaning

U. Educate Residents, Relatives, and Friends About the Disease and the Facility's Response

- The facility will provide updates to residents, relatives, and friends with education about the disease and the facility's response strategy at a level appropriate to their interests and need for information. Method of communication will be via telephone calls, mailings, robo calls, or facility website.

Refer to the attached Policy and Procedure on Communication During a Pandemic*



V. Procedure on Advising Vendors, Staff, and other stakeholders on facility policies to minimize exposure risks to residents

- Vendors and Consultants will be notified, in writing, by the Administrator/designee of pandemic practices and limitations to entry into the facility.
- Emergency staff including EMS will be informed of required PPE to enter facility
- Vendors will be directed to drop off needed supplies and deliveries in a designated area as needed to avoid entering the building.
- The facility will implement closing the facility to new admissions in accordance with any NJDOH directives relating to disease transmission

See Policy on Visitation during a Pandemic*

Refer to Vendor Contact List in Comprehensive Emergency Manual

W. Limiting and Restriction of Visitation

The facility will limit and/or restrict visitors as per the guidelines from the NJDOH

Residents and Representatives will be notified as to visitation restrictions and/or limitations as regulatory changes are made.

See Policy on Visitation during a Pandemic- in PP-COVID-19

Additional Response Tasks for Pandemic Events

X. Ensure Staff Are Using PPE Properly

- Appropriate signage shall be posted at all entry points, and on each residents', door indicating the type of transmission-based precautions that are needed.
- Staff members will receive re-education and have competency done on the donning and doffing of PPE.
- Infection Control rounds will be made to monitor for compliance with proper use of PPE

See Policy on Surveillance in PP-COVID-19

See policy on PPE in PP-COVID-19

Y. Post a Copy of the Facility's Outbreak Plan

- The facility will post a copy of the facility's Outbreak Plan in a form acceptable to the commissioner on the facility's public website and make available immediately upon request.
- A "hard copy" of document will remain available in facility lobby, accessible by residents, families and staff. Additional copies can be provided, upon request.



Z. The Facility Will Update Family Members and Guardians

- The Nursing Department will provide telephone updates, to authorized family members and guardians for residents infected with the pandemic infectious disease, daily, and upon changes to a resident's condition.
- Facility will provide weekly updates to all residents detailing the number of infections and deaths at the facility;
- Robo Calls and/or mail correspondence and/or phone calls will be provided updates to authorized family members and guardians, once per week, detailing the number of infections and deaths at the facility;
- Staff will offer residents the use of cell phones, tablets etc. to communicate, with authorized family members and/or guardian
- The facility will communicate with Residents, Representatives as per their preference via, calls/robocalls and document all communication preference in the CCP/medical record.
- Residents will be notified with regards to the number of cases and deaths in the facility unless they verbalize that they not wish to be notified. This will be documented in the medical record/CCP.

Refer to the attached Policy and Procedure on Communication During a Pandemic* Refer to CMS guidelines regarding a change in condition

The Facility Will Update Families and Guardians Once a Week – (See Section 3 Above)

- The facility will provide residents at no cost, daily access to remote videoconference or equivalent communication to be able to continue communication with friends a family member of their choosing.

Refer to the attached Policy and Procedure on Communication During a Pandemic

Hospitalized Residents

- The facility will implement the following process/procedures to assure hospitalized residents will be admitted or readmitted to such residential health care facility or alternate care site after treatment, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to 42 CFR 483.15(e).
- Prior to Admission/readmission the DNS/designee will review hospital records to determine resident needs and facility's ability to provide care including Cohorting and treatment needs.

See Policy on admissions/readmissions during a Pandemic*

Preserving a Resident's Place

The facility will implement processes to preserve a resident's place in a residential health care facility if such resident is hospitalized, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to 42 CFR 483.15(e).

See Policy on admissions/readmissions during a Pandemic- in PP-COVID-19*



The Facility's Plan to Maintain at least a two-month supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Refer to Section 6

See PPE tracker*

Recovery of all Infectious Disease Events

Activities/Procedures/Restrictions to be Eliminated or Restored

- The facility will focus on recovery of services based on the return to operations directives from the CDC, NJDOH and the needs of the residents and staff to reinstate said services to pre-pandemic operations.
- Recovery/Return to Normal Operations
- The facility will communicate any relevant activities regarding recovery/return to normal operations, with staff, families/guardians and other relevant stakeholders.
- The facility will ensure that during the recovery phase all residents and staff will be monitored and tested to identify any developing symptoms related to the infectious agent in accordance with State and CDC guidance.
- The facility will screen and test outside consultants that re-enter the facility, as per the NJ DOH guidelines during the recovery phase