COVID-19 prevention in U.S. nursing homes: Guidance and implementation

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For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19
Speaker Disclosures

- No disclosures to report
- The content of this presentation reflects our opinion and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the CDC
Thanks to the essential caregiving teams supporting residents and families!
Going back to the beginning...

First confirmed U.S. Case of COVID-19

Reports of PPE Shortages

COVID-19 in a nursing home in Washington

January 21, 2020  Mid-February 2020  February 28, 2020
A nursing home in the Seattle area is at the center of the US coronavirus outbreak

By Steve Almasy, Omar Jimenez and Julia Jones, CNN

Medics prepare to transfer a patient on a stretcher to an ambulance at the Life Care Center of Kirkland.

A worker shields a patient on a stretcher being taken to an ambulance at the Life Care Center of Kirkland in Washington state on Feb. 29, 2020. (David Ryder/Getty Images)

AMERICA

4 New Cases, Including One Death, Linked to Coronavirus Outbreak at Washington Nursing Home

BY ZACHARY STIEBER | March 2, 2020  Updated: March 2, 2020
Spotlight on COVID-19 Prevention and Control (IPC)

- NH Restrictions on Visitation;
- Implementation of Focused IPC surveys

- NHSN COVID-19 reporting for nursing homes

- Distribution of POC antigen testing machines

- COVID-19 testing requirements for outbreaks and staff screening

- Updated visitation guidance

- Federal Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 vaccine planning
- NHSN POC Antigen reporting

March 2020
April 2020
July 2020
August 2020
Sept 2020
October 2020

Represent measures taken by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
As of Nov 22, incident case rates among nursing home residents were increasing in 32 states.
CDC COVID-19 Resource Page

- Infection Control Guidance
- Testing guidance
- Assessment tools
- Training materials

Videos for Training Front Line Long-Term Care Staff

Mini Webinar training series for front-line staff to help protect residents from COVID-19

- Keep COVID-19 Out
- Clean Hands: Combat COVID-19
- Closely Monitor Residents for COVID-19
- Use Personal Protective Equipment Correctly for COVID-19
- Sparkling Surfaces: Stop COVID-19's Spread

Assessing COVID-19 Prevention/Response Strategies

- **Keep COVID out**
  - Visitor restrictions
  - Screening of visitors and HCP
  - Education and maintaining communication for families

- **Early detection/management**
  - Regular clinical monitoring of residents (most q shift)
  - Increasing use of COVID testing for residents and HCP
  - Setting up dedicated COVID care units

- **Implementing IPC practices to Prevent Spread**
  - Access to HH infrastructure
  - Access and use of PPE
  - Knowledge of appropriate disinfection supplies and cleaning processes
  - Monitoring/maintaining staff adherence

- **Communication and Care Capacity**
  - Systems for regular updates/notifications to residents, staff and families
  - Public health reporting/NHSN
  - Anticipating and addressing staffing and supply needs
  - Coordination at care transitions
Successful strategies and solutions

- Engaged facility leadership coordinating with a multi-disciplinary team on COVID-19 prevention strategies and practices
  - Understanding and addressing staff fears and concerns
  - Providing staff incentives and ongoing supports
  - Providing chaplain and counseling services
  - Maintaining constant lines of communication with residents and families through email lists, website communications and phone calls

- Prioritizing staff and resources to COVID-19 prevention activities
  - Dedicating staff to COVID-19 surveillance, prevention and testing activities
  - Ongoing staff training, monitoring and feedback on proper IPC practices
  - Tracking inventory and maintaining access to PPE and testing supplies
  - Establishing regular communication with public health and healthcare partners
Critical role of partners

- Supports from state and local partners
  - Provision of IPC guidance and technical assistance during outbreak responses
  - Identifying strategies to address PPE supply, testing and staffing needs
  - Maintaining ongoing communication with facilities providing COVID-19 care
  - Facilitating problem solving and sharing best practices among providers in the community
  - Vaccine coordination and promotion efforts for LTC providers

- Coordination between local hospitals, EMS services, and LTC facilities
  - Establishing triage/transfer protocols for clinically worsening residents
  - Accessing EMS services during transitions between healthcare facilities
  - Offering diagnostic evaluation, testing resources or IPC services
  - Proactive planning to ensure healthcare capacity within communities
Thank you!

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.