The general strategies the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in LTCF are the same strategies these facilities use every day to detect and prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses like influenza.

**KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath

Long Term Care Facilities concerned that a resident, visitor, or employee may be a COVID-19 patient under investigation should contact the Allegan County Health Department at (269) 673-5411 immediately.

**KEEP RESPIRATORY GERMS FROM COMING INTO YOUR FACILITY**

- **Actively screen** visitors for symptoms of respiratory infection (cough, sneezing, fever, fatigue, congestion)
  - If screening is not an option, post signs at the entrance and other doors telling visitors to not visit if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection
- Ensure sick leave policies allow and encourage employees to stay home if they or family members have symptoms of respiratory infection
- Assess residents symptoms of respiratory infection upon admission to the facility and implement appropriate infection prevention practices for incoming symptomatic residents
- If there is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply concerns, contact the Allegan County Health Department at (269) 673-5411

**STOP THE SPREAD OF RESPIRATORY GERMS WITHIN YOUR FACILITY**

- Keep residents and employees informed
  - Follow Allegan County Health Department on social media @AlleganCountyHD or www.allegancounty.org/health for updated information in Allegan County
  - Visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus for updated information from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
  - Visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus for updated information from the CDC
  - Inform them on actions your facility is taking to protect them and answer questions they may have

- Monitor residents and employees for fever or respiratory symptoms
  - Restrict residents with fever or acute respiratory symptoms to their room
    - If they must leave the room for medically necessary procedures, have them wear a facemask
  - In general, for care of residents with undiagnosed respiratory infection, use Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions with eye protection unless suspected diagnosis requires Airborne Precautions
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS, CONTINUED

- Support hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as, cough etiquette by residents, visitors, and employees
- Provide the right supplies to ensure ease and correct use of PPE
  - Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident's room that clearly describe the type of precautions needed and required PPE
  - Make PPE, including facemasks, eye protection, gowns, and gloves available immediately outside of the resident's room.
  - Position a trash can near the exit inside any resident room to make it easy for employees to discard PPE.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RESPIRATORY GERMS BETWEEN FACILITIES

- Notify facilities prior to transferring a resident with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a higher level of care
- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to the Allegan County Health Department at (269)-673-5411

WHAT TO DO NOW

PERFORM ROUTINE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective
- Schedule routine cleaning for all frequently touched surfaces. Use the cleaning agents you normally use for these areas and follow the directions on the label

DETERMINE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR YOUR ENTITY

- Communicate with employees
  - Ensure they have their own family emergency preparedness plans and have an appropriate stockpile of food/water/medications for family
  - See if they have the potential to work or learn remotely
  - Ensure they have child care plans in place
- Review sick leave policy and consider high absenteeism
- Contact insurance provider to learn about tele-medicine options and triage methods
- Plan for how operations will continue if there is increasing absenteeism or other interruptions
- Contact vendors or other entities to ensure they have emergency response plans in place

RESOURCES

- CDC/COVID-19
- Occupational Health and Safety Administration
- MDHHS