

**Epic Rehabilitation and Nursing at White Plains
Policy and Procedure**

Policy Name: Pandemic Emergency Plan	Issue Date: 3.5.2020	Revision Dates: 3.13.2020; 3.25.20, 4.4.2020; 4.10.2020; 9.15.2020
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POLICY: It is the Policy of Epic Rehabilitation and Nursing at White Plains to comply with all guidelines and regulations issued by the Governor of the State of New York, NYSDOH and the CDC as they relate to any type of infectious pandemic. The highest / most stringent standard will be followed when guidance from these governmental entities are in conflict.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION: This Pandemic Emergency Plan represents the facility’s plan to proactively prevent and /or minimize the spread of any infectious organism during a pandemic state. In addition, it outlines facility practices to promote the mental and physical well – being of the staff and residents during the time of the pandemic period. Policies / Procedures as they related to the specific infectious organism. This Plan will be posted on our face book page and will be available for review upon request at the facility.

PROACTIVE ACTIONS: The Administrator; Infection Control Nurse; Director of Nursing; Housekeeping Director and Director of Maintenance will monitor local and nation-wide trends indicating a potential for a pandemic infectious event. Upon recognizing potential for a pandemic infectious event, the facility will increase disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, using EPA guidance, from daily to twice per day or as determined by Infection Preventionist. Staff and visitors are already encouraged to not enter the facility if exhibiting signs/symptoms of a communicable illness. Staff, designated representatives and residents will be kept informed of the evolving potential threat.

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: Please refer to the Transmission Based Precautions Policy and Procedure. (Enhanced Droplet Precautions refers to the utilization of both contact and Droplet Precautions including the use of a face shield for the employee.) In addition: please refer to Policies / Procedures relating to Handling of Resident Packages; Safe Package Handling; Clothing Intake; Outbreak Management and Visitation. Emergency Credentialing/staffing portal

Note: Policies / Procedures specifically related to the evolving pandemic infectious organism will be developed and current Policies / Procedures modified as necessary.

I. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING

1. The Infection Control Nurse / designee will report suspected or confirmed communicable diseases as mandated under NYS Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR 2.10) as well as by 10NYCRR 425.19 via the Nosocomial Outbreak Reporting Application (NORA) on the NYS Health Commerce System (HCS) If the HCS is down then an Infection Control Nosocomial Report Form (DOH 4018), found on the DOH public website, will be faxed to the DOH.

Note: A single case of a reportable disease or newly apparent / emerging organism that may prove to be infectious is reportable to both the Local County Health Department and if believed to be acquired at the Nursing Home to the NYS Department of Health. Reports should be made within 24 hours of diagnosis unless immediate reporting is warranted. Immediate reporting should be done by phone and followed up with a written report.

2. Contact Information:

NYS Regional Epidemiologist Phone: 914-654-7057

NYS Regional Epidemiologist Fax: 914-654-7173

NYSDOH MARO Office Healthcare Epidemiology / Infection Control Program (for general questions:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/infection/regional.epi.staff.html> or after hours/nights/weekends (518)-292-2200

NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control 518-473-4439 or after hours 866-881-2809

To obtain Reporting Forms (DOH-389) 518-474-0548

II. COMMUNICATION

1. Information regarding resident contacts is kept in the Electronic Medical Record. In addition, upon admission and quarterly this information will be updated including the primary and secondary (if applicable) contacts preferred method to be contacted. Social Worker / designee will be responsible to update the information in the Electronic Medical Record.
2. In the event that a resident's test is positive for the infectious organism, the primary family contact will be notified by the Nursing Staff and updated regularly with any condition changes per their desired method of communications (excluding texting as texting is not HIPPA secure).
3. In the event that a resident, staff member, or contract staff member were to test positive for the infectious organism all residents will be informed within 24 hours. All primary contacts for the residents will be notified within 24 hours using their preferred method of notification. A call from a communication firm may follow up with professional recording robocalls. All staff will be notified by their Department Head/designee within 24 hours.
4. For the duration of the pandemic the Administrator/designee will communicate whenever there is a newly diagnosed case.

5. Social Service/designee will notify all resident contacts as identified previously, via their preferred method, regarding the status of the facility.
6. The facility encourages residents and their families / friends to use SKYPE; ZOOM; Face Time to maintain contact. If the resident cannot initiate contact or requires assistance the Activities Department/ therapy will arrange the meetings. Equipment is available to facilitate these meetings and is provided by the facility if the resident does not have their own devices.
7. Phone contact is also encouraged. Both the Activities Staff and Nursing Staff will assist in facilitating the contact. Phones are available if the resident does not have personal access to a phone.
8. If In-person visitation is suspended at any time during the pandemic communication will be increased at the resident/family request
9. Infection Control Nurse/Designee will update the Infection Control Bulletin Board with current information regarding the Pandemic and Staff Supports available.

III. INFECTION CONTROL

1. Informal screening will convert to formal screening for both staff and residents upon the direction of the Infection Control Nurse / designee. Upon the onset of formal screening all individuals entering the building will be directed to enter/exit the building via the Front Entrance. All individuals entering the facility will be screened based upon the presenting symptoms of the infectious organism. Any individual screened to have positive symptoms will not be allowed to enter the remainder of the building. Upon the onset of formal screening residents will be screened daily for the presenting symptoms of the infectious organism. Any resident found to have symptoms of the infectious organism will be placed in the appropriate Transmission Based Precautions.
2. The Resident who has screening results that are positive will be assessed by the medical provider and appropriate diagnostics ordered.
3. If the resident tests positive for the organism s/he will be isolated/quarantined for the duration of illness. Their room will be terminally cleaned.
4. All individuals who had contact with the resident testing positive will be required to self-screen twice and report any symptoms to the Infection Control Nurse.
5. Any resident who had contact with the resident testing positive will be screened twice per day for symptoms.
6. During a pandemic event, residents will only go to community appointments deemed to be medically necessary. The MD will make this decision based on medical need.
7. Utilization of transport services will occur as follows: preferred – taxi transport; community medical transport (except EMS) – provider must provide their disinfection plan prior to facility utilizing services for the resident.
8. Mail will be picked up and delivered by a designated employee; packages will remain in vestibule
9. All community outings will be canceled.
10. Adjustments will be made regarding communal dining and group activities based upon the transmission of the infectious organism.

11. If more than 1 resident is positive, the cohorting of positive, presumed positive, or observation cases will occur to prevent further spread. Staff will be assigned to positive cases and comingling and floating will be limited. If an entire wing or corridor is utilized during the pandemic for positive cases, the fire doors will remain closed. Both entrance / egress doors as well as confirmed case room doors are to have appropriate postings indicating droplet precautions and PPE requirements before entering room(s). Residents will not be able to exit the unit except for essential medical appointments during their "Observation" or "Isolation" Period. If the number of infected / suspected infections / observational residents exceed the number of available beds on an isolated corridor, consideration will be given to establishing other corridors in order to cohort and maintain separation from the non-infected population.

12. Bathrooms will not be shared between those residents in observation or precautions and those residents not in observation or precautions.

13. Staffing assignments will be based upon minimizing contact between those caring for residents who are suspected of or who have been diagnosed with the infectious agent.

14. PPE: The facility will maintain, at all times, a minimum supply of 60 days PPE based upon identified burn rates of each type. This includes N95 masks, gloves, gowns, face shields/ eye protection, hand sanitizer, and disinfectants as identified by EPA Guidance for Cleaning / Disinfection. Adequate storage space is available on the facility grounds including four (4) storage rooms within the facility and a large intact, weather secure shed outside the facility

IV. OTHER

1. All attempts will be made to treat the resident, who has become ill with the infectious organism, in place. If the resident requires hospitalization, when ready to return to the facility, the resident will be assigned to a privately occupied room where possible for the period of designated post hospitalization observation period, and then returned to his/her prior room. If space and empty beds are limited, 2 or more residents with the same positive organism may comingling in the same semi-private room, triple or quad. An exception to the readmission to facility is if the facility was not able to deliver the medically ordered care.