Promptly assess residents for fever and symptoms and signs of respiratory infection upon admission.

Limit all non-essential persons from entering the facility.
- This includes volunteers, interns, presenters, etc.

Suspend child/family visits in lieu of web based visits.

We understand that masks are limited at this time. Use masks for staff, visitors and residents, if available. Face masks should be prioritized for staff working directly with residents, if masks are limited at the facility. Use discretion when deciding to use masks with cognitively impaired residents.

Set up a sanitation station at the entrance of the building. Make sure everyone entering washes their hands properly (warm water, soap, 20 seconds).

Require employees limit use of cell phones to break times. Wash hands after using phone.

Practice Social distancing: maintain a distance of 3 feet between residents.

Require staff’s temperatures be taken prior to their shift starting.
- More than once per shift is ideal
- If someone falls sick at work, make sure you have a separate area where they can go

Require clients' temperatures to be taken routinely (at least once per day).

Designate an area for isolation for ill staff until they can go home.

Restrict all non-essential work-related travel.

Restrict all external meetings to conference calls.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The CDC’s prevention strategies for long-term care facilities are nothing new! You are likely already implementing controls to prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses among your staff and residents.

Prevent the Introduction of Germs into Your Facility
- Post signs instructing visitors not to visit if they have respiratory symptoms (COUGH, FEVER, SHORTNESS OF BREATH)
  - Base visitor restrictions on hospital policy
  - Update social media pages and resident/family newsletters with this notice
- Ensure your sick leave policy allows employees to stay home if they have respiratory symptoms
- Assess incoming residents for respiratory symptoms and follow appropriate infection prevention protocols for those who are symptomatic
- Recommend all visitors get flu shot (staff should be required to get flu shot or wear a mask)

Prevent the Spread of Germs within Your Facility
- Keep residents and employees informed: answer their questions and provide them with ways to protect themselves and others
- Monitor residents and employees for respiratory symptoms
  - Restrict those with fever or respiratory symptoms to their rooms, and if they must leave their rooms, require face masks
- For care of residents with undiagnosed respiratory infection, use eye protection unless symptoms indicate airborne precautions
- Monitor local and state public health bulletins to stay up-to-date on the latest COVID-19 information and suggestions for monitoring your residents and staff
- Support hand hygiene and cough etiquette among all residents, employees, and visitors
  - Ensure employees wash their hands according to CDC guidelines, including before and after contact with residents and after contact with contaminated surfaces
- Put alcohol-based hand sanitizer in every resident room
- Make sure tissues are readily available and sinks are well stocked with soap and paper towels
- Identify employees to care for COVID-19 patients and provide infection control training
  - Infection prevention practice guidance can be found through CDC’s free online course, The Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training
- Make available the correct supplies to ensure easy and accurate use of PPE
  - Post signs on the doors of residents’ rooms that clearly describe the precautions and PPE required
  - Make PPE available outside of residents’ rooms, including face masks, eye protection, gowns, and gloves
  - Place a trash can near the exit of residents’ rooms for easy disposal of PPE

Prevent the Spread of Germs between Facilities
- Notify facilities before transferring a resident with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to the local health department and your state HAI/AR coordinator

For the most up-to-date information, visit www.cdc.gov/covid19

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