

Chestnut Hill Convalescent & Rehabilitation Center (CHCC)

Department of Nursing

Distribution: All Nursing Manuals

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E-Signed by Director of Nursing: <u>Lourdes Ortega BSN- RN</u> Date: <u>3/9/2020</u>								
E-Signed by Administrator: <u>Vita Martirano LNHA</u> Date: <u>3/9/2020</u>								

Subject: **OUTBREAK RESPONSE PLAN**

Policy: It is the policy of Chestnut Hill Convalescent & Rehabilitation Center to investigate any “Outbreak”, i.e., any unusual occurrence of disease or any disease above background or endemic levels.

Procedure: The Infection Control Manual will be used by CHCC as a guide.

1. The Infection Preventionist has the responsibility for outbreak investigation.
2. Outbreak disease occurrence exceeds the usual baseline of endemic infection. In some cases a single infection can be an outbreak (e.g. Tuberculosis, Scabies, **Coronavirus**)
3. Monitor Residents and Staff for the following signs and symptoms:
 - Signs and symptoms of a respiratory infections, such as a fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea.
 - Contact with someone with or under investigation for infectious disease within the last 14 days (e.g., coronavirus, tuberculosis, scabies).
 - Domestic or international travel within the last 14 days to restricted states and countries.
4. If the above criteria are present in *staff* the following procedure will be followed:
 - a) Employee will not be permitted to report to work.

- b) Any employee that develop signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection while on the job, should:
- Immediately stop work, put on a face mask and self isolate at home.
 - Inform the facility's Infection Preventionist and include information on individuals, equipment and locations in which the person came in contact.
 - Contact and follow the local health department recommendation for next steps (e.g. testing, locations for treatment).

5. Staff Testing for COVID-19

- Employee may be tested using one of the following locations: County Testing Site, Medi-Center or Urgent Center.
- Employee will sign an Authorization for Release of Laboratory test results directly to Chestnut Hill Convalescent Center.
- Work Exclusion of staff who test positive for COVID-19 Infection - see attached policy (*Employees with Confirmed or Suspected Cases of COVID-19 P&P*).
- If employee's COVID-19 baseline test is negative, then employee will be re-tested after 7 days of baseline test but not to exceed 10 days.
- Further retesting will be done in accordance with CDC guidance, as amended and supplemented.
- If the employee tests positive for COVID-19 (symptomatic or asymptomatic), the employee may be permitted to return to work subject to CDC/DOH recommendations and after appropriate isolation period has been observed.

6. If the **resident** meets the criteria listed in 3 above, the following procedure will be followed:

- a) Confirm the diagnosis by one of the following methods:
- Review of the clinical signs and symptoms (e.g. COVID-19) and Laboratory tests (e.g. nasopharangeal test for Coronavirus) or
 - Chest X-Ray
- b) Resident Testing
- If COVID-19 baseline test result is negative, then resident will be re-tested within 3-7 days of baseline test.
 - Further retesting will be done in accordance with CDC guidance, as amended and supplemented.
 - If resident tests positive for COVID-19 see ***Control Measures*** below

- c) Establish a case definition (e.g. Individual has fever, cough, shortness of breath and positive Chest X-Ray).
- d) Create a line listing of all cases and look for any additional cases.
- e) Characterize disease cases by:
 - Time - time frame of outbreaks, exposure times, times of onset
 - Place - where did case occur.
 - Person - individual characteristics, possible exposure, population at risk (e.g. other individuals ate the same meal, bathed in same tub, resided in the same room).
- f) Formulate hypothesis based on information determined if true outbreak exists.
- g) Implement appropriate control measures.

7. Control Measures: In the event an outbreak occurs, the following procedure will be followed:

- a) Implement appropriate isolation precautions.
- b) Cohorting residents who are or are not infected with the same organism to confine their care in one area and prevent contacts with other residents.
- c) Group Activities will cease on unit if necessary:
 - i. Dining
 - ii. Activities
 - iii. Therapy
- d) Family and Vendor Visitation will cease
- e) Nursing staff will be assigned to same group of individuals during outbreaks.
- f) Notify the Administrator, Director of Nursing, Medical Director.
- g) Notify State, City and County Public Health Department .
- h) Notify residents, residents' families, visitors, and staff.
- i) Notify EMS of resident's diagnosis and precautions.
- j) Call receiving hospital prior to resident transfer and speak to the Charge Nurse of the Emergency Department. Specify that the resident is exhibiting symptoms of the Coronavirus.

8. Information on mitigating actions implemented by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission will be posted on the facility website.

9. Weekly updates (such as activity calendar, dietary menu, etc.) for residents, their representatives and families will be posted on the facility website.

10. Video conferencing will be offered via “What’s App” to residents and their representatives and families. Residents will utilize the facility iPhones.
11. In the event additional staffing is required, Chestnut Hill will utilize agency nurse staffing. Contracts are in place to procure such staff.
12. Chestnut Hill will update the HOTLINE (973-777-7800 ext 616) each time a single confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified, or whenever three or more residents or staff with a new-onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other.

QAPI:

Submit summary of report for QAPI Committee.