

**Distribution:** All Nursing Manuals

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Reviewed:								
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E-Signed by Director of Nursing: <u>Lourdes Ortega BSN-RN</u>		Date: <u>3/9/20</u>						
E-Signed by Administrator: <u>Donald E. Lynch MPA LNHA</u>		Date: <u>10/20/20</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:** Infection Control Manual will be used by CHCC as a guide.

1. The Infection Preventionist has the responsibility for any 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 for the following signs and symptoms:
  4. Signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
  5. Contact with someone with or under investigation for infectious disease within the last 14 days(e.g. coronavirus, tuberculosis, scabies).
  6. Domestic or international travel within the last 14 days to restricted states or 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 develops signs symptoms of a respiratory infection while on the job should:

Immediately stop work, put on a face mask, notify supervisor, go home and self isolate. Follow-up with facility Infection Preventionist and include information on individuals, equipment, and locations in which they had come in contact.

Contact and follow the local health department recommendations for next steps (e.g. testing, physician follow-up, hospitalization, etc.)

#### 5. Staff Testing for COVID -19

Employees will be tested weekly using approved testing utilizing in-house services as well as approved off campus testing sites.

Employees will sign an authorization for Release of Laboratory test results to be sent 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 the 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 guidelines, 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 the CDC / DOH recommendations and after the 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. nasopharyngeal test for Coronavirus) or

Chest X-ray

b) Resident Testing

If COVID-19 baseline test result is negative resident will be re-tested ONLY IF SYSTEMATIC SIGNS ARE PRESENT.

Further retesting will be done in accordance with CDC guideline, as amended and supplemented.

If resident tests positive for Covid-19 see Control Measures below

- c) Establish a case definition (e.g. Individual has a 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 the same tub, resided in the same room).

- f) Formulate hypothesis based on information determined if ture outbreak exists.
- g) Implement appropriate control measures.

7. Control Measures: In the event of an Outbreak the following procedures will be followed:
- a) Implement appropriate isolation measures
  - b) Cohort residents who are (or 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 the same group of individuals during the Outbreak
  - f) Notify the Administrator, Director of Nursing, & Medical Director
  - g) Notify State, City, and Public Health Department
  - h) Notify residents, resident families, visitors, and staff.
  - i) Notify EMS of resident's diagnosis and precautions
  - j) Call receiving hospital prior to resident transfer and speak to 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 calendars, Dietary menus, etc.) for residents, their representatives and families will be posted on the facility website.

10. Video conferencing will be offered via “What’s App” (or “Face Time”) to residents, families, and their families utilizing facility cell phones.
11. In the event additional staffing is required Chestnut Hill will utilize agency staffing. Contracts are in place to procure such staf.
12. Chestnut Hill will update the HOTLINE (973-777-7800) Ext 616 each time a confirmed Covid-19 resident is identified or whenever 3 or more residents (or staff) exhibit new onset of respiratory systems within 72 hours of each other.

**Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI):**

Submit summary of report to QAPI Committee.