HealthCap
RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

ASSISTED LIVING ADMISSION PROCESS / OPENING UP COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Given the congregate nature and population served, the facility is at high risk of COVID-19 spreading and affecting residents. Many people living in the community are at higher risk of getting extremely sick from COVID-19 because they are older adults and many have chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease.

Policy

This community will continue to adhere to the CDC infection control guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining the recommended level of social interaction.

General Considerations

- Admissions will be postponed if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case or 3 or more staff/residents present with symptoms within 72 hours of each other. The health department will be consulted to resume admissions when the outbreak is over.
- Residents who are hospitalized for non-COVID-related illnesses whose COVID-19 status is not known will be placed in Transmission-Based Precautions in a separate observation area or in a single-person room until 14 days have elapsed since admission/readmission and they remain asymptomatic.
- Residents admitted from the hospital/nursing home will be screened for respiratory symptoms and recent COVID status and placed in Transmission-Based Precautions in a separate observation area or in a single-person room until 14 days have elapsed since admission and they remain asymptomatic.
- If the state health department has approved, a resident diagnosed with COVID-19 requiring transmission-based precautions, may be admitted providing the facility adheres to CDC and health department guidance for transmission- based precautions.
- Telehealth visits should be considered to enable residents to communicate with their physicians while reducing face-to-face interactions.

New Admissions

- All new admissions during the COVID-19 pandemic will be quarantined in their apartments for 14 days and monitored for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Residents testing positive for COVID-19 will be evaluated, per the CDC guidelines, when they are no longer symptomatic and have tested negative prior to discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions.

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- Move in assistance will be provided by facility staff with one family member who has been screened, instructed on PPE use and handwashing.
- New admissions will be educated on COVID-19, social distancing, and handwashing.

Residents

- Residents are encouraged to wear a cloth face covering when out of their rooms or around others, regardless of symptoms, unless contraindicated due to medical conditions.
- A "buddy" system may be established for residents to check in on each other (non-face- to-face communication), volunteers could assist.
- Educate will be provided and observations will be ongoing for social (physical) distancing, hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Residents leaving the center for medical treatment, including but not limited to doctor appointments and dialysis treatment, will be isolated in Transmission Precautions for 14 days upon return to the center.
- Residents will be assessed daily for fever or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Residents exhibiting symptoms may remain in the facility if they are able:
    - To perform ADL's independently
    - Self-isolate during illness
    - To have meals delivered

Environmental

- Common areas and shared spaces will be cleaned and disinfected prior to use, after use and/or at least daily.
- High touch surfaces and shared equipment are cleaned before and after use and/or at least twice daily.
- An adequate supply of soap and alcohol-based sanitizer will be stocked in rest rooms and common areas
- Adequate cleaning and disinfection supplies are available for housekeeping and general use

Activities/Events

- Alter schedules to reduce mixing
    - Stagger mealtimes
    - Stagger activities and arrival/departure times
- Evaluate and limit programs with external staff
- Limit attendees based on room size and maintain social distancing
- Position chair at 90° angles in common rooms.

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Ongoing education

- Communicate regularly with staff, residents and families about any actions, or changes to protect residents and staff.
- Post for staff and residents' reminders on social distancing, hand washing and cough etiquette.

Staff and/or "Essential Visitors"

- Will continue to be provided with updates and education on COVID-19, handwashing and social distancing with the understanding that precautions will be maintained while in the facility.
- Will be screened for temperature, respiratory symptoms, or illness and will not be allowed entry to the center if they are experiencing symptoms of illness.
- Are required to wear a face mask/cloth face covering when in the facility including in non-resident care areas.
- Will maintain social distancing with residents and other staff as possible
- Will be educated on the importance of cough etiquette.

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https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/assisted-living.html

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/retirement/index.html

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