

Outbreak of Communicable Diseases- COVID-19

Highlights	Policy Statement
Definitions of Communicable Disease Outbreak	<p>Outbreaks of COVID-19 within the facility will be promptly identified and appropriately handled.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Policy Interpretation and Implementation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An outbreak of most communicable diseases can be defined as one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All cases are reported to the local BOH and state DOH to assist with determination of outbreak status b. Trends that are ten (10) percent (or more) above the historical rate of infection for the facility; or c. Occurrence of three (3) or more cases of the same infection over a specified period of time and in a defined area.
Contacts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Contacts will be assessed as appropriate to determine if any actions need to be taken.
Symptomatic Residents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Symptomatic residents and employees are to be considered potentially infected and will be assessed for appropriate actions.
Administration Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Administration will be responsible for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Telephoning a report to the health department; b. Restricting admissions to the facility as indicated or as authorized by the health department/Medical Director if instructed by the health department c. Submitting periodic progress reports to the health department, as requested; d. Calling emergency meetings of the Infection Control Committee; e. Discontinuing group activities, as indicated; f. Limiting visitors if indicated (i.e., as directed by health department or guidance issued by health department); and g. Forwarding Communicable Disease Reports to the health department, as required.
Infection Control Coordinator and Director of Nursing Services Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The Infection Control Coordinator and Director of Nursing will be responsible for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Receiving surveillance information and tabulating data; b. Maintaining a line listing of identified cases on the appropriate <i>Line Listing Report</i>. c. Notifying the Medical Director and the Attending Physicians; d. Assigning nursing personnel, if appropriate, to same residents group for the duration of the outbreak; and e. Completing the Documentation of Infection or Communicable Disease form, if required.
Nursing Staff Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The nursing staff will be responsible for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notifying the Director of Nursing of symptomatic residents; b. Providing infection surveillance data in a timely manner; c. Obtaining laboratory specimens as directed; d. Initiating isolation precautions as directed or as necessary; and

Employee Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Confining symptomatic residents to their rooms as much as feasible, when indicated.
Medical Director Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. All employees should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Practice good hygiene and handwashing technique; and b. Wear all PPE and observe all infection control precautions as directed c. Report any symptoms relating to the current disease outbreak to their supervisor. 8. The Medical Director is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Working with the Attending Physician(s) and the health department to determine the need for laboratory specimens; and b. Overseeing the management of the outbreak.
Attending Physician Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. The Attending Physician will be responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ordering isolation precautions, as needed or as per state regulations; b. Working with the Medical Director and health department to determine the need for laboratory specimens; c. Determining the need for follow-up specimens and discontinuing isolation in accordance with the most recent HOD guidelines

References	
OBRA Regulatory Reference Numbers	483.65(a),(b)
Survey Tag Numbers	F441
Related Documents	Documentation of Infection or Communicable Disease (Appendix A) Isolation – Categories of Transmission-Based Precautions (<i>General Infection Control Practices</i>)
Policy Revised	Date: _____ By: _____ Date: _____ By: _____ Date: _____ By: _____ Date: _____ By: _____