

Hackensack Meridian Health Post- Acute Facilities Outbreak Response Plan

Each of our facilities has an Outbreak Response Plan based on recommendations/guidelines from the CDC, NJDOH and CMS and the individual make-up of the facility. Our Infection Preventionists, Nursing Management, Administrators and Interdisciplinary Team are involved in ensuring that our plan is updated as new information becomes available. Our plan has been updated in response to lessons learned from COVID-19.

Our Outbreak Response Plan Includes the following policies, procedures and protocols:

Strategies for effective and clear communication with staff, patients/residents, their families or guardians about any about any infectious disease outbreaks, including methods to communicate information on mitigating actions implemented by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission , including if normal operations of the facility will be altered. Notifications will not include personally identifiable information.

- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy
- Communication Policy
- Communication Plan
- COVID-19 Pandemic Plan

Written standards, policies and procedures that provide for virtual communication (e.g. Phone, video-communication, Facetime, etc.) with patients/residents, families, and resident representatives, in the event of visitation restrictions due to an outbreak of infectious disease or in the event of an emergency.

- COVID-19 Pandemic Plan
- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy
- Communication plan

Methods to provide cumulative updates for patients/residents, their representatives and families of those residing in our facilities at least once weekly in particular during a curtailed visitation period.

- COVID-19 Pandemic Plan
- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy

Strategies for securing more staff in the event of COVID-19 or any other infectious disease or emergency among staff.

- Emergency Staffing Plan Emergency Staffing Policy
- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy
- COVID-19 Pandemic Plan
- Infection Preventionist

Policies, protocols for isolation of infected, exposed or at- risk patients/residents during an outbreak of a contagious disease including isolation procedures, cohorting of patients/residents and discontinuation of isolation.

- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy
- COVID-19 Isolation Policy
- Transmission Based Precautions
- Cohorting of Residents/Patients during an Outbreak of Contagious Disease

Information on the availability of laboratory testing, protocols for assessing whether facility visitors are ill, protocols to require ill staff to not present at the facility for work duties and processes for implementing evidence- based outbreak response measures which are included in the following :

- COVID-19 Pandemic Plan
- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy
- Visitors and Infection Control Policy

Policies to conduct routine monitoring of residents and staff to quickly identify signs of a communicable disease that could develop into an outbreak which are included in the following:

- COVID-19 Pandemic Plan
- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy
- Monitoring of staff

Policies for reporting outbreaks to public health officials in accordance with applicable laws and regulations which are included in the following:

- Outbreak Response Plan/Managing Outbreaks Policy
- COVID-19 Pandemic Plan

Please contact us if you need any additional information or for any question or concerns.