Long Term Care weekly COVID update call 11/18/2020
Disease Impact – United States

as of 11.01.20

Resident Cases and Deaths

- TOTAL COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES: 294,438
- TOTAL COVID-19 SUSPECTED CASES: 156,929
- TOTAL COVID-19 DEATHS: 65,446

Long Term Care in South Dakota

Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers

- Cumulative Total Resident Cases – 1720
- Cumulative Total Resident Active Cases – 986*
- Cumulative Total Resident Deaths – 325
- Cumulative Total LTC Facility with Case – 195
- Current Total of LTC with Case – 142*
- Cumulative Total Case in Staff – 858
- Total Active Cases in Staff – 708*
- Cumulative Total Staff Hospitalized – 22

*self-reported by touch-base calls as of 11/16/2020 - all data is provisional
The **Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention**

- **Screening** of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms
- **Hand hygiene** (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- **Face covering or mask** (covering mouth and nose)
- **Social distancing** at least six feet between persons
- **Instructional signage** throughout the facility and proper **visitor education** on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- **Cleaning and disinfecting** high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate use of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
- **Effective cohorting** of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care)
- **Resident and staff testing** are accessible
Personal Protective Equipment

All requests for PPE from DOH must be:

• Emailed to COVIDResourceRequests@state.sd.us,
• Faxed to 605.773.5942, or
• Called in to 605.773.3048 to ensure prioritization and coordination of requests.

• Do not duplicate your request by using all three means of communication.

• Any requests received through any other email or number will all be directed to email COVIDResourceRequests@state.sd.us OR call 605.773.3048 and requesting entities must provide information regarding their current facility status.
Holiday Visitation –
During COVID-19 Pandemic

• Focus efforts on encouraging families to keep residents safe during the holidays.

• Educate families on the risk of taking loved ones out of the facility.

• Determine other ways to conduct visitation – virtual, not the same but may keep the resident safe.


• Follow facility policy for visitation to include holiday timeframes.

• Upon the resident’s return place them on observation as if a new admit.
  • The resident is not cohorted with positive or suspected COVID cases.
  • The resident is placed in observation and monitored for COVID signs and symptoms.

*With the exception of Memo 20-39, the above are not requirements/rules/regulations and are not in writing. They are recommendations voiced by CMS.*
Resources for Long Term Care

- Project Echo Clinical Rounds - including a series of sessions focused on nursing facility care: https://hsc.unm.edu/echo/institute-programs/covid-19-response/us-covid19/hhs-aspr/

- Here is the link to the NH Resource Center: https://www.cms.gov/nursing-homes

- and the specific link to the training series: https://qsep.cms.gov/welcome.aspx
Staffing Resource Options

In recognizing the critical role of family members and close friends in the life of residents in LTC and acknowledging the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is strongly recommended LTC facilities develop and implement their response plan to acknowledge and include designated essential caregivers and volunteers.

- **Essential caregiver** is an individual(s) whether family or friend who previously was actively involved with the resident and/or was committed to providing companionship or assisting in the activities of daily living of the resident.

- **Volunteer** may be a member of the community performing other roles to free time for direct care staff.
Infection Control Assessment & Response (ICAR)

Tool that facilities can use in order to assess and improve their preparedness for responding to COVID-19 and help develop a comprehensive plan.

*Items assessed in the ICAR support the key strategies of:*

- Keeping COVID-19 out of the facility
- Identifying infections as early as possible
- Preventing spread of COVID-19 in the facility
- Assessing and optimizing personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies
- Identifying and managing severe illness in residents with COVID-1
- Can be performed via tele-visit or in-person


Flu? COVID-19? BOTH?! 

As we enter flu season, be aware of other etiologies or concurrent infections in your residents: Consider using these tools to help decide testing and treatment strategies.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/index.htm

**Testing and treatment of influenza when SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses are co-circulating**

- **New** Consolidated Clinical Algorithm for Outpatient Clinic or Emergency Department Patients with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms (With or Without Fever)
- **New** Clinical Algorithm for Outpatient Clinic or Emergency Department Patients with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms (With or Without Fever) Not Requiring Hospital Admission
- **New** Clinical Algorithm for Patients with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms Requiring Hospital Admission (With or Without Fever)
- **New** Testing and Management Considerations for Nursing Home Residents