

Is your facility survey-ready?

3 Key Infection Control Measures for Long-Term Success

Recognizing the intense functional needs of most long-term care residents, and delivering that care in light of COVID-19, makes infection prevention and control challenging but crucial for patient and facility success. Fortunately, there are measures that can be taken to ensure this population and all those treated in long-term care settings can remain safe and healthy while reaching their recovery goals.

This guide contains facility best practices for infection prevention and control measures during COVID-19 and beyond.

Research shows that the potential for viruses to grow to pandemic levels has greatly increased in the past few years. Additionally, there are various indirect health factors that contribute to increased morbidity and mortality, including the depletion or diversion of resources and decreased access to routine care due to inability to travel, heightened fear and other factors.¹ This makes the integration of infection control procedures all the more important as facilities continue to seek the necessary resources to navigate the ever-changing healthcare landscape.

Infection Control Best Practices

Following the CDC's initial rapid response to COVID-19 in order to stop the spread of the virus, facilities were challenged to not

only continue providing critical care to patients, but alter and add services to address newly-developed patient conditions caused by COVID-19. These new services require ongoing adaptation due to the uncertainty the pandemic brings – making infection prevention and control procedures a vital element in helping ensure facility success, benefiting staff efficiency, patient outcomes and overall health and safety.

Utilizing these infection prevention and control strategies will not only help a facility's staff operate efficiently, but increase health and safety measures around patients, therefore improving recovery outcomes and patient experience.

Three Infection control measures to maintain during COVID-19 and beyond include:

1

Increased situational awareness to allow for an accurate and up-to-date view of ongoing COVID-19 infectious disease threats.¹

Streamlining communication across the facility will allow nurses and therapists to stay up to date on the latest precautions, therefore consistently providing the right type of care in the safest environment possible.

2

Utilize the CDC's COVID-19 Health Care Planning Checklist to prepare and respond to COVID-19.²

This enables a facility's infection control team or individual to identify specific, recommended CDC actions and adapt those actions to support a facility's COVID-19 response plan.

3

Apply risk communication to provide real-time exchange of information and advice between the designated infection control team, facility staff and partners.¹

This will allow for informed decisions regarding protective and preventive action.



Key Infection Control Measures for Long-Term Success

Setting Infection Control Quality Standards with RehabCare

Communicable diseases such as COVID-19 will continue to emerge, representing a serious threat and disrupting healthcare operations. Therefore, long-term care facilities need a partner with leading clinical quality standards to help them ensure their patients are receiving the highest in quality care in a safe environment. With a focus on reducing transmission among patients and staff, protecting people who are at higher risk for adverse health complications, maintaining business operations and the implementation of mitigation strategies, RehabCare has coordinated with the CDC, local and state health officials, and partners so that timely and accurate information-guided infection prevention and control responses are utilized in each location. Working with their partners, **RehabCare has been able to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 within those long-term facilities and has enabled clinicians to continue to meet residents' intense functional needs in order to optimize quality outcomes.**

To learn how RehabCare can help your facility be survey ready, call 800.545.0749 x 67640 or visit www.rehabcare.com.



Sources

1. Madhav, N. (2017, November 27). *Pandemics: Risks, Impacts, and Mitigation*. Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK525302/>
2. *Comprehensive Hospital Preparedness Checklist for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)* [PDF]. (2020, March 24). Center For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/HCW_Checklist_508.pdf