The Long-Term Care Infection Preventionist's Survival Guide

Setting Up a Successful Infection Control Program





Getting Started

Locate and review scope of responsibilities document/job description Locate and review the facility's infection prevention policies Establish a point of contact list:

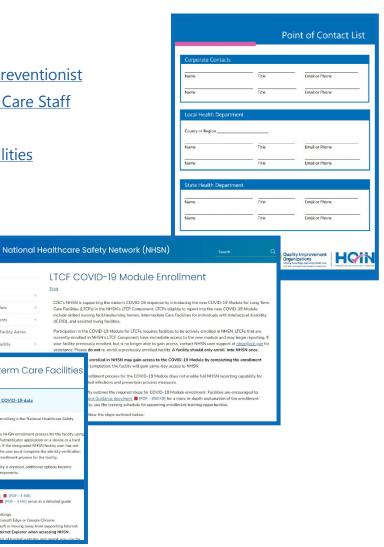
- ✓ Local health department
- ✓ Corporate contacts
- Reporting systems and EHR help desk support
- ✓ Vaccine supplier (pharmacy)
- ✓ State health department
- ✓ Local hospital contacts
- Who is reporting in NHSN (establish account if needed)
- ✓ Lab contact

Familiarize yourself with the EHR and lab reporting system

Determine after-hours expectations for infection control issues or potential outbreaks

5-Step Enrollment for Long-term Care Facilities

- Sample Job Description for the Infection Preventionist
- AHRQ Infection Prevention for Long-Term Care Staff
- Infection Prevention and Control Program
- 5-Step Enrollment for Long-term Care Facilities
- LTCF COVID-19 Module Enrollment
- Point of Contact List





EHR and Lab Reporting

- Do labs results flow directly into the EHR?
- Will the lab notify the facility or ordering provider of abnormal results?
- How are you notified when lab results are in the residents' charts?
- Where can I find the results in the residents' records?
- Does the electronic health record show trends and compare past results?
- Do I have access to the records?



After Hours Expectations for IC Issues or Outbreaks

- How will you be notified if there is an IC issue or outbreak identified?
- Will you be expected to report to the facility or can you provide direction over the phone?
- Who should have my contact information?
- Can I access records outside the facility?

Tools of the Trade



Locate the infection tracking tool or develop an infection tracking tool
Locate the vaccination tracking tool or develop a vaccination tracking tool
Locate rapid flu, antigen COVID tests, etc. and determine the process for PCR testing
Determine the result process for send-out testing
Review the vaccine storage process and policy
Ensure an antibiotic stewardship program is in place



- Overview of HAI Reporting in the Long-term Care
 Facility Component
- Infection Control Monthly Line Listing
- COVID-19 Vaccination Tracking Tool
- Vaccination Tracking Tool
- Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS)
- The Infection Preventionist's Guide to the Lab
- Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit
- Vaccine Administration Toolkit
- Nursing Home Antimicrobial Stewardship Guide
- Implementing an Antibiotic Stewardship Program
 Guidelines
- Toolkit To Improve Antibiotic Use in Long-Term
 Care
- Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship





Rapid Flu and Antigen COVID Tests

- · Where are the test kits stored?
- Are we CLIA certified?
- How are expiration dates monitored?
- How are test results documented in the resident's chart?
- Who orders the test kits?
- Are there standing orders for flu and COVID testing?
- What is the protocol for testing?



Send Out Testing

- What lab do we use?
- What forms are needed and who fills them out?
- Do we order labs through the EHR?
- Who obtains the specimens and how are they transported to the lab?
- What is the process for nurses to notify IP regarding any infections, antibiotics, etc.?

Isolation, PPE and Supplies



Review isolation protocols, including the process to establish an isolation room Locate and inventory the isolation carts and PPE supplies Identify the system for ordering and tracking PPE supplies Locate additional supplies and ensure you have access to all supplies Review isolation and infection prevention and control signage



- Isolation Precautions Guideline
- Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing
 Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare

 Settings
- Precautions to Prevent Transmission of Infectious
 Agents
- Fundamental Elements to Prevent Transmission of Infectious Agents
- Transmission-Based Precautions
- Implementation of PPE Use in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of MDROs
- Infection Prevention and Control of Epidemicand Pandemic-Prone Acute Respiratory Infections
- PPE Burn Rate Calculator
- Contact Precautions Sign (English)
- Contact Precautions Sign (Spanish)
- Airborne Precautions Sign (English)
- Airborne Precautions Sign (Spanish)
- Droplet Precautions Sign (English)
- Droplet Precautions Sign (Spanish)
- Enhanced Barrier Precautions Sign
- COVID-19 (Masking and Visitation) Signage
- Water, Sanitation and Environmentally Related
 Hygiene (WASH) Posters





Isolation Carts and PPE Supplies

- Where are the carts located?
- What is the process to order an isolation set up and how is it communicated?
- Is there a process in place to determine what supplies are needed in the cart?
- Who monitors the cart to restock supplies?



Additional Supplies

- How do I access supplies?
- Are supplies stored on each unit/floor?
- How is inventory monitored?
- How are supplies ordered?
- Who is responsible for setting up/taking down supplies?
- Who is responsible for monitoring necessary postings regarding infection, protocols, precautions, etc.?

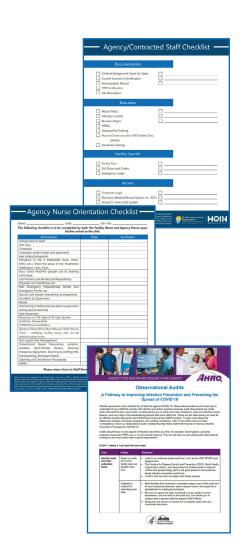
Staff Infection Control



Introduce yourself to the team and plan to meet staff from all shifts
Schedule a meeting with the staff development coordinator
Review the current training program and frequency of competency checks
Develop a staff IP skill audit and observation schedule (additional to annual training)
Review employee respirator fit testing needs



- Microsoft 365: Choose the Right Tool for the Job (Note: This resource requires a LinkedIn Learning subscription)
- Doodle Meeting Scheduling
- <u>Targeted COVID-19 Training for Nursing Homes Instruction</u>
- <u>Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home</u>
 <u>Staff and Management Flyer</u>
- Agency/Contracted Staff Checklist
- Agency Nurse Orientation Checklist
- Infection Prevention and Long-term Care Facility Residents
- State Operations Manual
- Auditing Strategies to Improve IP Processes in Nursing Homes
- Observational Audits
- Using Audits to Monitor IP Practices
- <u>Targeted Assessment for Prevention (TAP) Strategy Toolkit</u>
- Fit Test FAQs
- Respirator Fit Testing
- Infection Control in Health Care: An Overview
- About Outbreak Investigations in Healthcare Settings
- <u>Diseases and Organisms in Healthcare Settings</u>



Infection Prevention and Control



Identify if there is a notification system when a new infection is identified or an antibiotic is ordered

Identify residents at high risk for infection

Review resident vaccination history

Conduct chart reviews of residents on antibiotics

Familiarize yourself with sepsis and its risks

Stay current with enhanced barrier precautions guidance and incorporate principles into the program

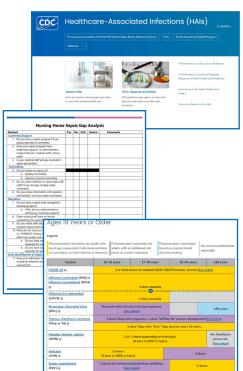
Meet and review infection policies/processes with the medical director

Conduct an initial ICAR to establish a baseline and implement an action plan for findings that do

not meet IPC expectations



- Revised McGeer Criteria for Infection Surveillance Checklist
- Healthcare-Associated Infections
- Adult Immunization Schedule by Age
- ACIP Vaccine Recommendations
- Locating and Tracking Adult Vaccine Records
- Hopkins ABX Guide
- Enhanced Barrier Precautions in SNFs
- FAQs about Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes
- Enhanced Barrier Precautions Sign
- INTERACT Guidance on Management of Possible Sepsis
- Sepsis Risk Assessment Evaluation Tool
- Nursing Home Sepsis Gap Analysis
- ICAR Tool for General General Infection Prevention and Control Across Settings
- Instructions: ICAR Tool for General Infection Prevention and Control Across
 Settings
- ICAR Section 1 Demographics
- Module 3: Transmission Based Precautions (TBP) Facilitator Guide
- Section 3: Observation Form Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP)
- Action Plan Templates
- Infection Prevention Audit Tools





New Infection Notification System

- How are new infections reported?
- Do the lab results come to me?
- How are new antibiotic prescriptions reported?
- How are suspected infections reported?
- Do I have access to review lab results in the resident's chart?
- Has an investigation into the origin of the infection been initiated/completed?



Infection Risks

- Residents with a foley catheter
- Residents with open wounds/decubitus ulcers
- Residents with diabetes
- · Residents on antibiotics
- · Residents that leave the facility
- Residents that are immunocompromised
- Residents at risk for aspirating

Surveillance



Identify the process for contacting providers for IPC concerns

Contact the local health department and introduce yourself to the infection preventionist and epidemiologist; obtain list of reportable diseases

Review system for collaboration with MDS coordinator for accurate documentation and coding of vaccinations

Meet with the admission coordinator to discuss obtaining vaccination information prior to/upon admission

Participate in QAPI and add meetings on your calendar

Communicate findings with the leadership team

Monitor COVID-19 hospitalizations, death and ED visit levels

Locate the facility emergency preparedness plan and review identified risks



- Long Term Care Infection Control Worksheet
- LTCF RAI 3.0 User's Manual
- Quality Measure Tip Sheets
- <u>Virginia Vaccine Immunization Information System</u>
- South Carolina Statewide Immunization Online Network
- ShowMeVax (Missouri) Registration
- ShowMeVax (Missouri)
- Kansas Immunization Information System Registration
- Kansas Immunization Information System
- QAPI Meeting Agenda Guide
- Resident COVID-19 Vaccination/Booster Program QAPI Review
- QAPI at a Glance
- CDC COVID Data Tracker
- Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) Tool
- Kaiser Permanente Hazard Vulnerability Analysis
- Hazards Vulnerability Analysis

(?) Process for Contacting Providers After Hours

Includes: Medical director, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists

- Who contacts the provider or who authorizes who contacts the provider?
- Where is the provider contact information?
- What criteria is needed to contact a provider after hours?
- Can residents be transferred to the ER without a provider order?
- How are orders entered in the EHR?
- How is the pharmacy notified of medication orders/changes?

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Local Health Department Contacts

County:		
Phone #:		
Main contact name:		
Main contact email:		

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Sharing Information with the Leadership Team

Share information at daily stand-up meetings, risk meetings and QAPI meetings. Include findings from assessments and audits/observations.

Other:

Additional Resources



- Toolkit for Isolated Infection Preventionists
- HAI Checklists
- Content of an Infection Prevention and Control Plan
- Infection Prevention and Control Plan Checklist
- Giving Infection Prevention Feedback
- General Resources on Bloodborne Pathogens
- <u>Training Requirements in OSHA Standards</u>
- Infection Control Amplification in Nursing Centers
- SHEA/CDC Outbreak Response Training Program
- Developmental Path of the Infection Preventionist
- TB 101 for Health Care Workers
- Project Firstline
- Infection Prevention Training (CDC)

