Long Term Care Facilities can follow these guidelines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 amongst their residents, staff, and visitors.

**KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath

Long Term Care Facilities concerned that a resident may be symptomatic of COVID-19 should contact the Berrien County Health Department at 269.926.7121 immediately.

**KEEP RESPIRATORY GERMS FROM COMING INTO YOUR FACILITY**

- **Actively screen and restrict** visitation by those who:
  - Have signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
  - Are experiencing respiratory illness or COVID-19 diagnosis or investigation for COVID-19.
  - Have an international travel history within the last 14 days to an area with sustained transmission (see CDC website for information on affected countries).
  - Reside in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.

- If screening is not an option, post signs at the entrance and other doors telling visitors to not visit if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection.

- Ensure sick leave policies **allow and encourage** employees to stay home if they or family members have symptoms of respiratory infection.

**STOP THE SPREAD OF RESPIRATORY GERMS WITHIN YOUR FACILITY**

- Encourage personal protective measures among residents, visitors, and staff, including regular handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Implement social distancing measures as feasible, such as reducing large gatherings, altering meal schedules to reduce mixing, and limiting programs with external staff.
- Limit visitors to only those who are absolutely necessary and implement screening of visitors for temperature and respiratory symptoms.
- Monitor residents and employees for fever or respiratory symptoms:
  - Restrict residents with fever or acute respiratory symptoms to their room. If they must leave the room for medically necessary procedures, have them wear a facemask.
WHAT TO DO NOW

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RESPIRATORY GERMS BETWEEN FACILITIES

- Notify facilities prior to transferring a resident with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a higher level of care.

- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to the Berrien County Health Department at 269.926.7121.

PUT VISITOR LIMITATIONS IN PLACE

- In lieu of visits (either through limiting or discouraging), facilities can consider:
  - Offering alternative means of communication for people who would otherwise visit, such as virtual communications (phone, video-communication, etc.).

- When visitation is necessary or allowable, facilities should make efforts to allow for safe visitation for residents and loved ones. For example:
  - Suggest limiting physical contact with residents and others while in the facility. For example, practice social distances with no hand-shaking or hugging, and remaining six feet apart.
  - If possible, creating dedicated visiting areas (e.g., “clean rooms”) near the entrance to the facility where residents can meet with visitors in a sanitized environment. Facilities should disinfect rooms after each resident-visitor meeting.

DETERMINE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR YOUR FACILITY

- Communicate with employees:
  - Ensure they have their own family emergency preparedness plans and have an appropriate supplies of food/water/medications on hand and back-up child care plans in place.

- Review sick leave policy and consider implications of high absenteeism; plan for how operations will continue if there is increasing absenteeism or other interruptions.

QUESTIONS? FIND MORE INFORMATION:

Call: 1-800-815-5485
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