To Weber and Morgan counties Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities,

Effective immediately your facility is instructed to implement the following actions to ensure the protection of the health and safety of residents, staff and visitors during the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). These preventive measures reduce the risk of introducing the virus into facilities and will help with rapid detection of persons with COVID-19, along with management and isolation of identified cases.

Policies and Procedures for Visitors

- Facilities should limit all visitors, except for certain situations, such as end-of-life situations or when a visitor is essential for the resident’s emotional well-being and care.
- Facilities should actively screen and restrict all visitation by those who meet the following criteria:
  - Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
  - In the last 14 days, contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness.
  - Travel within the last 14 days to countries with widespread sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html
  - Residing in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.
  - Visitors with any trips (within the last 14 days) on cruise ships or participated in other settings where crowds are confined to a common location.
- Restricting means the individual should not be allowed anywhere in the facility until they no longer meet the criteria above.

Personnel Monitoring and Restrictions

- The same screening performed for visitors should be performed for facility staff.
- Health care providers (HCP) who have signs and symptoms of respiratory infection should not report to work.
- Any staff developing signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection while on-the-job, should:
  - Immediately stop work, put on a facemask, and self-isolate at home.
  - Inform the facility’s infection preventionist, and include information on individuals, equipment, and locations the person came in contact with.
- Contact and follow the local health department recommendations for the next steps (e.g., testing).
- Facilities should contact their local health department for questions, and frequently review the CDC website dedicated to COVID-19 for health care professionals [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html).

**Volunteers, vendors and receiving supplies, agency staff,**

- Facilities should review and revise how they interact with volunteers, vendors and receiving supplies, agency staff, EMS personnel and equipment, transportation providers (e.g., when taking residents to offsite appointments, etc.), other practitioners (e.g., hospice workers, specialists, physical therapy, etc.), and take necessary actions to prevent any potential transmission. For example, do not have supply vendors transport supplies inside the facility, have them dropped off at a dedicated location (e.g., loading dock). Facilities can allow entry of these visitors as long as they are following the appropriate CDC guidelines.

**Resident Monitoring and Restrictions**

- Nursing homes and assisted living facilities that have one or more residents, staff, contractors or volunteers subject to a state or local health department recommendation or order of isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 need to be isolated in their rooms away from other people. A resident can choose to discharge from a facility at any time.
- Owners, administrators, operators, staff, and volunteers are prohibited from disclosing protected and confidential health information except as otherwise provided by law or with consent from the resident.
- Consider staggering meal times so residents are not gathered in large numbers at one time in an effort to keep the group size less than 20.
- Facilities are strongly encouraged to explore, adopt, and implement reasonable alternative methods to provide access for residents to mitigate the impacts of these prohibitions. These may include:
  - Facilitate other means of communication, such as phone or video communication.
  - Creating/increasing listserv communication to update families.
  - Assigning staff as primary contact to families for inbound calls.
  - Conducting regular outbound calls to keep families up to date.
  - Providing a phone line with a voice recording updated at set times (e.g., daily) with the facility’s general operating status.
  - Those over the age of 60 and those with compromised immune systems should avoid gatherings of more than 20 people.
- If known or suspected cases of COVID-19 are identified among residents or staff, facility administrators will need to take additional steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the facility. Please work with your local health department and adhere to current infection control recommendations from CDC and the Utah Department of Health.

**Additional Guidance for Infection Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19:**

- Restrict all visitation except for end of life situations.
- Restrict all volunteers and non-essential healthcare personnel (HCP), including non-essential healthcare personnel (e.g., barbers).
- Cancel all group activities and communal dining.
- Implement active screening of residents and HCP for fever and respiratory symptoms.

Your efforts to protect the health and safety of your residents, staff, and visitors are critical during this outbreak. For questions and additional information, call the Utah Coronavirus Information Line at 1-800-456-7707 or the Weber-Morgan Health Department at 801-399-7777.

Sincerely,

Brian Bennion, MPA
Executive Director

References:
- CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Preparedness Checklist -


cms.gov infection control guidance COVID-19 in nursing home
