COVID-19 Toolkit for Post-Acute Care Settings

This toolkit is designed to help post-acute care settings prepare for and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreaks in their facility. For purposes of this document, a post-acute care setting includes adult care homes, nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities. Even one case of COVID-19 is a serious public health concern and needs immediate investigation and implementation of infection control measures by the facility and the local health department (LHD).

We strongly recommend all managers and infection control personnel in LTC settings read the CDC Guidance for COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities and prepare for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in their facility. CDC also has a helpful webinar describing how to prepare facilities for COVID-19. Assessing infection control practices and educating staff about infection control now may help prevent a future outbreak of COVID-19.

Toolkit contents:

1. “What to Expect: Response to COVID-19 Cases in Post-Acute Care Settings” lists the steps that the facility and LHD will take in response to COVID-19 cases.
2. “Considerations for Residents Admission/Readmission during a COVID-19 Outbreak in Post-Acute Care Settings” describes the assessment facilities should use to evaluate their availability to admit residents.
3. “Infection Prevention Guidance for Post-Acute Care Facilities in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic” summarizes updated guidance on visitation, testing and quarantine.
4. “Post-Acute Care Setting Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool” describes how to assess infection control practices in your facility. We recommend assessing your infection control practices before any COVID-19 cases occur in your facility to prevent potential outbreaks.
5. “Infection Prevention Education Resources” provides resources to educate staff about the basics of infection prevention, hand hygiene, and personal protective equipment (PPE) use. Effective infection prevention requires that all staff in the facility, including those who do not provide direct patient care, know how to keep themselves and the residents of the facility safe.
6. “Requesting PPE” has information about obtaining emergency PPE.

If you have any questions about the materials in this toolkit, please contact your local health department.