**COVID-19**

**Source Control Measures and Physical Distancing**

**Leaders Guide**

**Source Control Measures and Physical Distancing**

**Leader’s Guide**

There are multiple factors to consider when addressing COVID-19 spread and its effect on the facility. Using source control measures in accordance with guidance, to create a consistent method to prevent infection spread within the health center is critical to preventing outbreaks, particularly when community spread of COVID-19 is prevalent.

Policies and procedures following the guidelines provided through The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state specific guidance will enable the health care organization to consistently implement strategies to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of residents and staff.

Source Control Measures and Physical Distancing, consistent with CDC, CMS, and State guidance, are essential core strategies in the prevention of the spread of infection. These strategies are applicable to all health care personnel, residents, vendors, visitors, and others who enter the health care organization.

Staff education and training for COVID-19 prevention must promote source control and proper personal protective equipment (PPE) use. Training for residents, staff, visitors, vendors, and others on the use of source control per guidance is expected. Ongoing monitoring and auditing is important for adherence with expected requirements. While adherence by all health care personnel is expected, staff will also need to re-educate residents on the importance of cloth facial covering use when indicated.

Through established COVID-19 policy and procedures, adherence to source control measures and physical distancing in accordance with guidance, will be essential components to an organization’s processes today and in the near future.

Some areas leaders need to consider for Source Control Measures and Physical Distancing may include:

* Staff Resources:
* Infection Preventionist
* Licensed Nurses
* Administrator
* Director of Nursing Services and designees
* All Staff
* Residents and Resident Representatives
* Education:
* Infection Control Practices and Prevention of Transmission
* Policies and Procedures for Infection Control, including COVID-19
* Specific Source Control Measure policies and procedures, also incorporated into other polices as applicable (All departments)
* Specific physical distancing policies and procedures, also incorporated into other polices as applicable (All departments)
* Proper use and application of personal protective equipment
* Proper application and removal of face masks and cloth face coverings
* Hand hygiene and use of hand sanitizers
* Screening process
* Visitation process per guidance
* Physical plant considerations and communal area considerations
* Documentation Considerations:
* Employee education and competency demonstration outcomes
* Documentation of resident understanding and ability to apply/remove cloth facial covering when indicated
* Care plan and care assignment sheets to indicate resident skill in face covering management and hand hygiene
* Daily documentation of resident willingness to apply facial covering consistently when indicated
* Monitoring and Evaluation
* Observation of staff performance with coaching as needed
* Staff interview regarding availability and use of PPE and face masks
* Observation of resident compliance
* Resident interviews regarding use and availability of facial coverings
* Infection control tracking of all infections, locations, and trends
* COVID-19 tracking and trending
* QAPI review and reporting

**References and Resources**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic), Updated Sept. 23, 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. QSO-20-39-NH, Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 (REVISED), 09/23/2022: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>

# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Facemasks. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Infection Prevention, Control & Immunizations Critical Element Pathway, CMS-20054 (10/26/2022): <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/guidanceforlawsandregulations/nursing-homes>