

INFECTION CONTROL IN THE WORKPLACE

Infection control in a retirement community or skilled nursing facility is of utmost importance to protect the health and well-being of residents, staff, and visitors. Infection control measures are designed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases within the facility. Here are some key strategies and best practices for infection control:

1. **Hand Hygiene:** Encourage all staff, residents, and visitors to practice regular handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Provide hand sanitizer stations throughout the facility, especially in high-traffic areas.
2. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Ensure that staff are trained in the proper use of PPE, including gloves, gowns, masks, and face shields. Ensure an adequate supply of PPE and maintain proper storage and disposal procedures.
3. **Isolation and Cohorting:** Identify and isolate residents with infectious diseases in designated areas or rooms to prevent the spread of illness. Cohort staff and residents to minimize cross-contamination.
4. **Cleaning and Disinfection:** Maintain a rigorous cleaning schedule, especially for high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, and common areas.
5. **Screening and Testing:** Screen all individuals entering the facility for symptoms of infectious diseases, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Implement a testing protocol for staff, residents, and visitors as necessary.
6. **Vaccination:** Encourage and facilitate vaccinations for staff and residents, including influenza, pneumonia, and other vaccines as recommended by health authorities.
7. **Education and Training:** Conduct regular training for staff on infection control protocols and the latest guidelines from health authorities. Educate residents and families about infection prevention and control measures.
8. **Visitors' Policies:** Implement visitor guidelines during outbreaks to minimize the risk of transmission, including the ability for video visits.
9. **Staff Health:** Encourage staff to report symptoms of illness and provide clear guidelines for when they should stay home from work.

Together we can help keep everyone healthy by taking these steps to minimize the spread of infections.