CPAC Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of an Influenza Outbreak

For use in Skilled Nursing & Assisted Living Facilities

Health Care Personnel
- All health care staff should be vaccinated annually against influenza.
- Staff who develop respiratory symptoms and fever should not report to work until illness resolves.

Standard Precautions
Staff should adhere to standard precautions in all healthcare settings year round.
- Staff should perform hand hygiene frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleanser. Hand hygiene should be performed before and after patient/resident contact, and before donning personal protective equipment.
- Health care staff should wear gloves for any contact with potentially infectious material. Hand hygiene should be performed after removing gloves.
- Staff should wear a gown for when there is a potential for contact with blood or body fluids. Hand hygiene should be performed after removing gown.

Droplet Precautions
Droplet precautions should be implemented for residents with suspected or confirmed influenza for at least 7 days after illness onset or until 24 hours after the resolution of fever and respiratory symptoms, whichever is longer.
- Staff should wear a facemask when entering the room of a patient/resident with suspected or confirmed influenza. The facemask should be removed when leaving the patient/resident’s room.
- The patient/resident under droplet precautions should wear a facemask during transport outside of room.
- Patients/residents with confirmed or suspected influenza should be placed in a private room when possible.
- Consider having patients/residents with influenza illness in the same room or area of the building if private rooming is not possible.

Visitors to Facility during Influenza Outbreak
Limit visitors to rooms in isolation for influenza.
- Screen visitors for acute respiratory illness before entering the facility.
- Provide visitors instructions on hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched, and use of personal protective equipment while in a patient’s/resident’s room.

---

1 Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings (CDC, 2018)

Document reviewed and updated: May, 2019

Clinical Practice Alliance Committee of MAGIC

© Minnesota Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians 2019