

# CPAC Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of an Influenza Outbreak

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*For use in Skilled Nursing & Assisted Living Facilities<sup>1</sup>*

## 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings (CDC, 2018)