

THE VALLEY VIEW CENTER FOR NURSING CARE
AND REHABILITATION
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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DEPARTMENT(S): _____ TITLE: Pandemic Preparedness

All Dept. Head: Arleen McManus, DON

Date of Initial Approval: _____

Signature of Approval: _____

Implementation Date: 5/1/20

Revised Mo./Yr. 9/2020

Reviewed: Mo./Yr. _____

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Valley View Center for Nursing Care and Rehabilitation to have a comprehensive preparedness plan in place in order to respond to:

1. Pandemic influenza
2. Evolving unspecified microorganisms/pathogens yet unknown

The plan is based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), New York State Department of Health (DOH) and local government agencies.

II. PURPOSE:

1. Reduce morbidity and mortality
2. Minimize disease transmission
3. Protect healthcare personnel
4. Preserve healthcare system functioning

When an increased incidence of febrile respiratory illness is observed, the specific viral agent will be identified in order to provide diagnostic information, guide control measures and determine if antiviral use is indicated.

III. EQUIPMENT:

- CDC Long-Term Care Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist (Attachment A)
 - *Valley View Policy and Procedure: Influenza and Pneumococcal surveillance and Management for Residents and Health Care Personnel*
 - Valley View EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN
 - Laboratory testing and/or Flu Swab
 - Facility Signage/brochures/posters/flyers
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IV. PROCEDURE:

A. Administer/Director of Nursing/Designee/Medical Director:

- 1.Ensures Pandemic Influenza checklist completed (Attachment A)
- 2.Works in conjunction with local and state health department(s) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- 3.Valley View's communication plan will:
 - a. Update authorized family members and guardians of residents infected with the pandemic infectious disease at least once per day and upon change in a resident's condition.
 - b. Update all residents and authorized family members and guardians once per week on the number of infections and deaths at the facility.
 - c. Develop a plan to provide all residents with daily access to free remote videoconferencing, or similar communication methods, with authorized family members and guardians and
 - d. Provide required communications by electronic means and or other method selected by each family member or guardian.
- 4.Identifies the person(s) authorized to implement section(s) of the plan:
e.g. Nursing, Environmental services, Housekeeping, Admissions, Rehab, Social Services, Personnel, Staff Development, Laboratory services, Vendors, Dietary/food services, Pharmacy services, Engineering/maintenance services, Transportation services, Purchasing agent, Employee Health, Security.
- 5.Implements plan for surveillance and detection of presence of pandemic influenza and/or evolving microorganisms/pathogens in Residents and Staff.
- 6.Cohorting will be implemented to reduce the transmission which will include:
 - a. Use a part of a unit, dedicated floor, or wing in the facility or a group of rooms at the end of a unit, such as the end of the hallway.
 - b. Discontinue any sharing of a bathroom with residents outside the cohort.
 - c. Proper identification of the area for residents with the pandemic infectious disease, including demarcating reminders for healthcare personnel and.
 - d. Procedures for preventing other residents from entering the area.

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7. Readmission of residents to Valley View after hospitalization and plan for preserving a resident's place at Valley View when the resident is hospitalized for the pandemic disease will follow all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to readmission.
8. Evaluates any person(s) entering the facility for possible exposure and/or presence of pandemic influenza.
9. Ensures a 60-day supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and correctly used, according to Standard, Droplet, Contact or Airborne protocols.

Note: In the event of airborne infectious agents, staff will be FIT tested for the N95 respirator mask according to CDC guidelines and Valley View policy/procedure.
10. Ensures proper Handwashing technique, Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette is implemented.
11. Addresses staff absences and other related occupational issues.
12. Obtains current recommendations and guidance for the use, availability, access and distribution of vaccines and antiviral medications.

IV. PROCEDURE (continued):

13. Develops contingency plans for:
 - a. Staffing needs
 - b. Quantities of essential materials and equipment
 - c. Supply shortages
 - d. Residents who require acute care services when hospital beds unavailable
 - e. "Surge capacity" strategies to help increase bed capacity in the community
 - f. Facility space which could be used for expanded inpatient beds
 - g. Increased need for postmortem care and disposition of deceased Residents
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