Prevent introduction of respiratory germs INTO your facility

- Post signs at the entrance instructing visitors not to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Upon admission, assess residents symptoms of respiratory infection and implement appropriate infection prevention practices for incoming symptomatic residents.

Prevent spread of respiratory germs WITHIN your facility

Keep residents and employees informed—This helps to reassure and calm.

- Post visual alerts (signs & posters) at entrances and in strategic places providing instruction on hand & respiratory hygiene.
- Monitor local and state public health resources to understand COVID-19 activity in your community.
- Discuss stigma with your employees.

Monitor residents and employees for fever or respiratory symptoms.

- Consider limiting visitors to the facility.
- Observe newly arriving patients for development of respiratory symptoms.
- In general, for care of residents with undiagnosed respiratory infection use Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions with eye protection unless suspected diagnosis requires Airborne Precautions (e.g., tuberculosis).

Take steps to prevent known or suspected COVID-19 patients from exposing other patients.

- Limit the movement of COVID-19 patients (e.g., have them remain in their room).
- Identify dedicated employees to care for COVID-19 patients and provide infection control training.
  * Guidance on implementing recommended infection prevention practices CDC’s free online course — The Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training [https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/training.html](https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/training.html)—which includes resources checklists for facilities and employees to use.

Support hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cough etiquette by residents, visitors, and employees.

- Ensure supplies are available (tissues, waste receptacles, alcohol-based hand sanitizer) and correct use of PPE.
  * Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident room that clearly describe the type of precautions needed and required PPE.
  * Make PPE, including face masks, eye protection, gowns, and gloves, available immediately outside of the resident room.
  * Position a trash can near the exit inside any resident room to make it easy for employees to discard PPE.
- Ensure employees clean their hands according to CDC guidelines, including before and after contact with residents, after contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment, and after removing personal protective equipment (PPE).
• Put alcohol-based hand rub in every resident room (ideally both inside and outside of the room), and make sure tissues are available and any sink is well-stocked with soap and paper towels for hand washing.
• Dedicated medical equipment should be used for patient care.
• All non-dedicated, non-disposable medical equipment used for patient care should be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer’s instructions and facility policies.
• Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly.

**Prevent spread of respiratory germs BETWEEN facilities**

• **Notify** facilities prior to transferring a resident with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a higher level of care.
• **Report** any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to the local health department at (831) 454-4114.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

For more detailed guidance on how to implement the above, please reference:

**Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF):**

**CDC’s Interim Guidance for All Healthcare Facilities: For strategies to reduce morbidity and mortality; minimize disease transmission; protect healthcare personnel; and preserve healthcare system functioning:**

**Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators:**

**Stigma and Resilience:**

**Print resources for staff, patients, and visitors:**

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**Symptoms of respiratory infection, including COVID-19:**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of

**Concerned that a resident, visitor, or employee may be a COVID-2019 patient under investigation?**

Contact the Santa Cruz County Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 454-4114

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For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.cdc.gov/covid19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19).

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**Key Considerations for Healthcare Facilities:**

Currently there are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent COVID-19. Community approaches to slowing transmission are needed to reduce the number of people who get sick.

In each healthcare facility, the primary goals are to:

- **Prepare for a potential surge** in patients with respiratory infection
- **Protect** healthcare personnel and non-COVID-19 patients accessing healthcare from infection
- Provide appropriate levels of care
- **Prepare for shortages** in personal protective equipment supply and staff

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