

INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE ICAR



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CDC LTC ICAR

- Provides a systematic review of infection control practices for COVID-19 in nursing homes
- Identifies strengths in current systems, policies and procedures
- Identifies opportunities for improvements
- Differs from the CMS tool in that its primary intended use is for facilitated assessments that are aimed at **Quality Improvement**
- Facilitates change by translating the results into actions



CDC LTC ICAR

- The tool is divided into fourteen sections:
 - Section 1: Collects facility demographics and critical infrastructure information and is intended for completion by the facility prior to the ICAR
 - Sections 2-7: Are a discussion of policies and practices with the facility. These sections cover personal protective equipment (PPE), hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, general IPC practices, resident-specific practices, and SARS-CoV-2 testing.
 - Sections 8-14: Tour of the facility.



THE QUESTION

- Currently what is the facility's greatest challenge with SARS-CoV-2 infection prevention and control?
 - Staffing
 - Compliance with masks
 - Vaccination
 - Families angry at continued restrictions
 - Keeping up with changes/requirements
 - Fear of a new outbreak
 - Food deliveries



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- What PPE is **universally worn or would be worn by HCP** at the facility in the following situations? If there is **no to minimal** SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the surrounding community, what PPE is worn for the care of residents who are **not** under Transmission-Based Precautions (please select all that apply):

- Respirators
- Facemasks
- Eye Protection
- Gown
- Gloves
- No PPE
- Other, please specify:
- Unknown
- Not assessed



PPE

- If there is **moderate to substantial** SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the surrounding community, what PPE is worn for the care of residents who are **not** under Transmission-Based Precautions (please select all that apply):

- Respirators
- Facemasks
- Eye Protection
- Gown
- Gloves
- No PPE
- Other, please specify:
- Unknown
- Not assessed



PPE

- For the care of residents with suspected SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., symptoms consistent with COVID-19) (please select all that apply):

- Respirators
- Facemasks
- Eye Protection
- Gown
- Gloves
- No PPE
- Other, please specify:
- Unknown
- Not assessed



PPE

- For SARS-CoV-2 laboratory specimen collection (please select all that apply):

- Respirators
- Facemasks
- Eye Protection
- Gown
- Gloves
- No PPE
- Other, please specify:
- Unknown
- Not assessed



PPE

- If there is **moderate to substantial** SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the surrounding community, what PPE is worn for the care of **any** resident during **potentially aerosol generating procedures**, such as nebulizer treatments or CPAP/BiPAP (please select all that apply)?

- Respirators
- Facemasks
- Eye Protection
- Gown
- Gloves
- No PPE
- Other, please specify:
- No aerosol generating procedures performed
- Unknown
- Not assessed



PPE

- Respirators
- Facemasks
- Eye Protection
- Gowns
- Gloves



RESPIRATORS

- Are all HCP currently fit tested for the type of respirator they are using?
 - Yes No Unknown Not assessed Other, please specify:
- If YES,
 - Are HCP medically cleared prior to fit-testing?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unknown
 - Not assessed



RESPIRATORS

The most recent CDC Guidance (March 29, 2021) states: Implement a [respiratory protection program](#) that is compliant with the OSHA respiratory protection standard ([29 CFR 1910.134](#)[external icon](#)) for employees if not already in place. The program should include [medical evaluations](#), training, and [fit testing](#).



HAND HYGIENE

- Does the facility encourage the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer in most clinical situations unless the hands are visibly soiled?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unknown
 - Not assessed



HAND HYGIENE

- Where are your alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers?
- Where are your handwashing sinks?



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- Can a facility representative explain the meaning of a disinfectant contact time?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unknown
 - Not assessed
- Does the facility representative know the facility's disinfectant product(s) contact time?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unknown
 - Not assessed



GENERAL INFECTION AND CONTROL (IPC) POLICES

- Does the facility have at least one individual with training in infection control who provides on-site management of the IPC program?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unknown
 - Not assessed



GENERAL INFECTION AND CONTROL (IPC) POLICES

- Approximately what percentage of HCP received the annual influenza vaccine last year?
 - Greater than 90% Between 50-90% Less than 50% Unknown
- Approximately what percentage of facility residents received the annual influenza vaccine last year?
 - Greater than 90% Between 50-90% Less than 50% Unknown



GENERAL INFECTION AND CONTROL (IPC) POLICES

- Screening
- Competencies and Audits
- Social Distancing among staff
- Visitation
- Communal Dining
- Non-essential Workers



RESIDENT-RELATED INFECTION AND CONTROL POLICES

- Ask the facility to describe how **asymptomatic residents** are monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID-19: Monitored at least daily
 - Yes No Unknown Not assessed
- How often are residents with **suspected or confirmed** SARS-CoV-2 infection monitored for signs and symptoms of severe illness?
 - Less than three times a day
 - Three times a day
 - More than three times a day
 - Unknown
 - Not



TESTING

- If antigen testing is utilized, does the facility confirm negative antigen test results from symptomatic residents and HCP with a reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) within 48 hours?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unknown
 - Facility not using rapid antigen testing
 - Not assessed



TOUR

- Screening stations
- Hand hygiene
- PPE Use
 - Reprocessing and Storing of Reused PPE
- Frontline Healthcare Personnel (HCP)
 - Interview
- Environmental Services (housekeeping)
 - Interview
- Social Distancing/Breakrooms
- Designated COVID-19 Care Area



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Following tour
- Final Report
- Follow-up



WHAT ARE WE SEEING?

Staff have “PPE Fatigue”

- Not as diligent in selection of correct PPE for given situations
- Not aware of CDC recommendations based on community transmission rate
- Forgetting correct donning and doffing
- Not wearing masks correctly



OSHA IS DOING INSPECTIONS

- The most recent CDC Guidance (March 29, 2021) states: Implement a [respiratory protection program](#) that is compliant with the OSHA respiratory protection standard ([29 CFR 1910.134external icon](#)) for employees if not already in place. The program should include [medical evaluations](#), training, and [fit testing](#).
- Screening
 - Limit entry
 - Monitor all points of entry
- Facemasks
 - Properly worn
 - Changed once a day



ICAR PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Enhance resident safety
- References and tools you can use
- You will be able to use the results of the ICAR assessment as part of ongoing quality improvement initiatives
 - Identify and enhance staff education program
 - Develop and implement auditing program to validate compliance with infection prevention and control practices
- Update your annual facility assessment
- Survey preparation
- Support the Infection Preventionist



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