COVID-19 Checklist for Long-Term Care Facilities

Top 5 Things You Can Do to Protect Against COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, has ordered that all long-term care facilities restrict visitation to one visitor per resident per day, to keep a log of all visitors, and to assess visitors for COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) and other risk factors, denying entry to those who exhibit them.

Dr. Acton also strongly recommends that all long-term care facilities immediately take the following actions:

- **Reduce risks presented by visitors and implement methods to reduce isolation.** Direct visitors to wash their hands before proceeding to their visit. Implement a communal laptop that residents can use for video chatting with visitors unable to come; disinfect between uses.

- **Allow sick employees to stay home.** Screen employees at the start of their shifts and send home anyone who has signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Develop sick leave policies that allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms or a respiratory infection.

- **Encourage good cough etiquette and hand hygiene.** Retrain staff and residents on hand-washing and cough etiquette. Ensure staff wash their hands before and after every interaction with each resident. Consider posting visual reminders of proper hand-washing and cough etiquette. Place alcohol-based sanitizer both inside and outside of patient rooms, and make sure tissues are available.

- **Separate ill residents to limit spread of disease.** Separate residents with respiratory symptoms (see above) from other residents; however do not allow residents with symptoms to interact unless the cause of their illness is confirmed to be the same.
Increase cleaning. Increase the frequency of cleaning of shared surfaces with EPA-approved cleaning products. Limit sharing of medical equipment.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4ASKODH (1-833-427-5634).