



March 16, 2020

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## **PPE Guidelines for Those Caring for Hillcrest Senior Living Residents with Respiratory Symptoms**

### **PPE and Visitor Guidelines**

The guidelines refer to the most current CDC guidelines, which due to the current environment continue to evolve as more is understood about the characteristics of the virus. Additionally, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, visitation will be suspended for visitors and non-essential healthcare providers, except as for certain compassionate care situations.

### **Screening**

Essential visitation (*e.g.*, end of life, medical providers, and home healthcare providers) the following screening must occur:

- Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
- In the last 14 days, contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 or under investigation for COVID-19
- International travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission.
- Domestic travel in the last 14 days to areas with sustained community transmission.
- Residing in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.

Essential visitors with a positive screen will not be permitted to enter the facility at any time, even in end-of-life situations.

Essential visitors that are permitted, will be required to restrict their visit to the resident's room or other location designated by Hillcrest.

### **Caring for patients in the long-term care setting with respiratory symptoms:**

- Ask resident to wear a mask and ensure they have access to respiratory hygiene supplies (tissues, alcohol based hand rub)
- Isolate resident in their room
- Arrange for meal delivery
- Coordinate resident evaluation, as necessary in the appropriate setting, i.e. primary care provider, urgent care, or emergency department

### **PPE:**

- Limited Resident Contact (dispensing medications, vital signs etc.) - Wear a surgical mask and gloves
- Close Resident Contact (*e.g.* dressing, bathing, changing linens, wound care) - Wear a surgical mask, eye protection, and gloves (gowns are recommended if available)

### **Preventing the Spread of Viral Respiratory Infections**

- Follow Standard Precautions and Respiratory Hygiene practices
- Increase surface cleaning
- Offer tissues, alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) and device cleaning wipes at registration desks and points of entry
- Make sure signs are posted about general respiratory hygiene
- Provide coughing patients with a mask
- Persons age 60 or older should not participate in any gatherings, especially those gatherings of more than 20 people
- Remind residents to practice social distancing and wash hands frequently

**General Information on how COVID-19 spreads**

Person-to-person transmission most commonly happens during close exposure to a person infected with COVID-19, primarily via respiratory droplets produced when the infected person coughs or sneezes. Strict adherence to Standard Precautions including respiratory hygiene practices can prevent the spread of most communicable diseases.