

REGENCY NURSING CENTERS
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: COVID-19 OUTBREAK PLAN	
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Regency Nursing & Rehab Centers has developed and implemented an outbreak response plan in compliance with the guidelines issued by Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service (CDS), New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Facility’s Local Department of Health (the “Outbreak Plan”). The Outbreak Plan targets, among other things, infection control, infection prevention, transparency through communication with our residents/patients and their representative(s), if any, as well as their family and loved ones, and reporting. Our goal, as always, is to provide for the safety and wellbeing of our residents and patients.

This policy has been updated from its original version as a result of the lessons learned during the COVID-19 outbreak. Modifications will continue as appropriate when new information is obtained.

Regency communicates with residents, their families or guardians, and staff regarding infectious disease outbreaks through various media. Information regarding infectious disease outbreaks are provided in person and through postings for residents, staff, and permissible visitors. Families or guardians are made aware of infectious disease outbreaks through notification via telephone, email, or other application. Regency will provide cumulative updates for residents, their representatives, and families of those residing in the facilities regularly, in particular during a curtailed visitation period.

Email Updates will be sent out to all family members to communicate information on mitigating actions implemented by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations of the facility will be altered. Notifications shall not include personally identifiable information.

Regency has been and will continue to provide for virtual communication (e.g. phone, video-communication, Skype, Facetime, etc.) with residents, families, and resident representatives, in the event of visitation restrictions due to an outbreak of infectious disease or in the event of an emergency. Please email or call the Recreation Department to setup an appointment. To ensure all families have an opportunity to make a virtual visit, appointments may be limited to once per week.

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Regency has a documented strategy for securing more staff in the event of a new outbreak of COVID-19 or any other infectious disease or emergency among staff. As part of the strategy, staff will be cross trained to assist in the provision of resident care should staffing levels be compromised. The facility may choose to utilize off-duty staff for specific designated times during emergency operations. The facility may utilize agency resources to support facility staffing patterns during emergent situations. Other Strategies may include:

- a. Recruiting retired healthcare workers
- b. Utilizing medical and nursing students and C.N.A. students
- c. Using recreation staff for ancillary tasks such as passing trays, answering call bells, passing water and beverages for residents.
- d. Provide essential needs of critical personnel for food, transportation and shelter during the outbreak.
- e. Seek assistance from NJADONA and various nursing associations to help supply staffing.
- f. Seek assistance from various C.N.A. schools to supplement staffing needs
- g. Coordinate staff openings with other neighboring and sister facilities and retrieve personnel information related to licensing and background check and DOH Registry records.

This outbreak plan will be posted on Regency’s website for public view.

The last few months have truly been a challenge for healthcare providers and for our governmental agencies providing guidance and directives to fight an unknown and novel illness that unexpectedly infected our country and its communities. The lessons drawn from our shared experience with covid-19 remain a focus of the facility. We have learned that our open and timely communications with our residents and family made a big difference to our residents and their families wellbeing and to alleviate some of the anxiety and fear the pandemic has caused. We have also learned that the increased testing that gradually became available after the outbreak of Covid-19 began is an essential tool to fight the spread of Covid-19.