

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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LTC Environmental Assessment

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What we will cover

- Your personal safety
- Environmental assessment
- Employee engagement
- Q & A



Entering the Facility



It's a good sign if the facility asks for some identification, makes you sign in (or at least records your name and purpose), takes your temperature and tells you about the PPE requirements for entering the facility,

Donning PPE

- Start with clean and dry hands
- N95 mask fit tightly to your face
- Surgical mask and eye protection
- Gown and booties
- Gloves



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1. All of our PPE is located on the Epi side of the building
2. The doctor who meets you at the facility will provide PPE for you
3. It will be donned at the location prior to entering the patient area

Look But Don't Touch



1. Whenever possible resist the temptation to touch surfaces.
2. Do not touch your face or PPE throughout the inspection if possible.
3. Patient and visitor dining rooms should be closed.
4. In some cases, special needs patients have to be fed outside of their room but should have social distancing whenever possible.

TV Room



1. TV and other entertainment rooms can be used by patients if they can be seated at least 6 feet apart.
2. Be sure that the patients are not symptomatic or under isolation or quarantine orders

Community Rooms



1. If your community rooms are used, the patients or staff must be at least 6 feet apart and have surgical masks (if their mental state allows).
2. Sometimes these areas are close to the nurse's stations so they can keep a constant eye on the patient (i.e. dementia patients)

Patient Care



1. Due to staffing shortages STNAs and other lesser skilled workers are helping nurses and doctors administer to patients.
2. Social distancing, PPE wearing and hand hygiene rules still must be observed.
3. Most facilities provide just in time (JIT) training or cross-training of job functions to overcome these challenges.

Patients Sharing Items Ceases



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Ask about any items that are borrowed from patient to patient - library books, magazines, hymnals, etc.

Some Items Must Travel



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1. BP service cart with medical supplies.
2. Usually moves throughout several floors with patients that may be Covid + or presumed +.
3. All items that touch patients must be disinfected between patients - stethoscopes have disposable covers.

Medication Carts



1. Ideally, the beverages used to wash down medications would be in single service cups with lids to eliminate handling by nurses and direct patient care workers.
2. Those cups would be filled and covered in the kitchen.

Night Med Cart with Snacks



1. Sometimes paperwork, documents and medications are all stored on one cart.
2. If these items are moving throughout the facility there should be handwashing/hand sanitizing supplies located on the cart.
3. The cart should never enter a Covid+ room

Food Service



1. Ideally, all foods should be individually portioned and covered when delivered to rooms.
2. Food employees shouldn't be feeding patients during the pandemic.
3. In fact, they should never be entering patient rooms.
4. If "rental" employees are used they should receive just in time (JIT) training before entering patient rooms.
5. The topics should include general food safety, allergens, hand hygiene, PPE usage (both donning and doffing) and recognition of illness symptoms.

Staff Meals



1. Employees need to eat in a safe place away from patient food and food contact surfaces.
2. Only approved kitchen staff should be entering the kitchen.
3. Vending machines, entrance key pads, phones and other commonly touched surfaces that should be disinfected frequently.

Therapy Rooms



1. If numerous patients are having treatments in the same room social distancing is a must.
2. Equipment must be disinfected between each patient.
3. Workers who touch patients must use gloves and practice good hand hygiene between patients.

Therapy Rooms



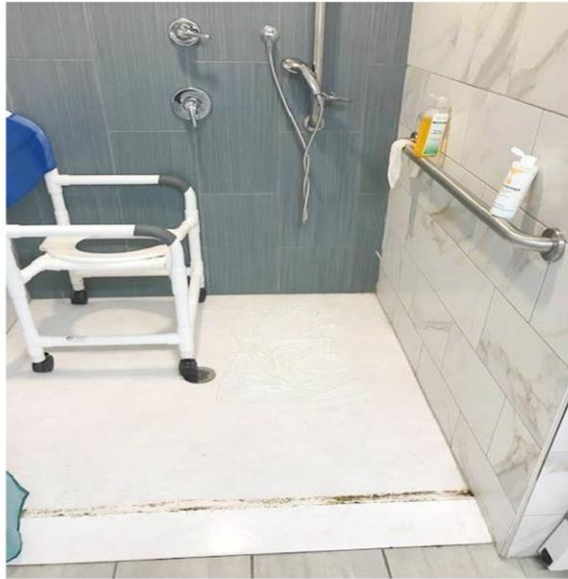
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Therapy Rooms



1. Transport makes it easy to move commonly-touched products near patients.
2. Cross-contamination can occur if they are stored within 6 feet of a patient.

Shower Rooms



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1. Soiled linens and used personal care products should either follow the patient or be disposed of after each patient.
2. The room must be disinfected between patients which can be challenging because of the large size of these rooms and because there are so many surfaces that could potentially be touched.
3. This is especially difficult after patients that shower without the help of an attendant.

Shower Rooms



1. Scale buttons and other touchpads must be disinfected on a continual basis.
2. The same shower attendant who bathes the patient touches these items.
3. Tray tables are often used to house linens and other personal care products for the patient.

Shower Rooms



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1. Patients often use the toilet before entering the shower.
2. The cold air from leaving their room and the movement from walking or wheeling to the room often stimulates the process.

Shower Rooms



Handwashing should occur after using the toilet and before touching shower fixtures.

Shower Rooms



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Rags and wipes used to disinfect toilet chairs should not be used for other surfaces

Shower Rooms



Ideally, shower curtains would not be touched by patients or shower attendants unless they can be changed between patients.

Storage Carts



1. LTC facilities have innovated to create storage options for PPE, medications, personal care items, etc.
2. Be sure that carts and storage are durable, cleanable items.

Covid + Patient Rooms



1. Limit access to Covid + rooms.
2. In fact, during the assessment, there is no need for the sanitarian to enter any patient room.
3. To protect yourself, treat yourself and every person you encounter as being potentially Covid +.
4. Safe social distancing will protect you and the patients.

Patient Tables



Patient tables in rooms should only be used for patient information and meals and never to house LTC staff clipboards, med containers, pens, etc.

Patient Room Disinfection



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1. When environmental services or housekeeping disinfects patient rooms they should be wearing PPE.
2. Ideally, Covid+ patients should be in either solo rooms or cohorted together.
3. Caregivers should either work on the sick or healthy sides and not both whenever possible.
4. Any medical practitioner using:
 - a nebulizer to administer albuterol or some other breathing treatment
 - handling a CPAP (sleep apnea machine)
 - doing any routine medical practice that puts them in contact with aerosolized body fluid (mucus, sputum, feces etc)is at risk and could be placing other workers at risk for Covid.

Outside Snacks



1. Covid can be passed fecal-orally (like Norovirus) so patient families must refrain from bringing in outside meals or snacks.
2. Environmental services or housekeeping should check patient refrigerators to ensure that only facility meals are maintained.

Assist Bars



1. Assist bars and bedrails are high contact surfaces, remote controls and nurse call buttons, telephones and thermostat buttons all are touched frequently

Gate Straps



1. Gate straps are used by aides to guide and stabilize patients while they are walking.
2. These should not be shared and should either be marked with patient names or room numbers.

Serveries



1. Serveries that have refrigeration should be checked for temperature control.
2. Be sure that patient food is kept separate and above employee food.
3. Disinfect these units routinely.

Quarantine of Patients



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1. Patients returning from the hospital or from a facility that has Covid + patient are generally quarantined for 14 days in a private room.
2. This ensures their good health prior to sharing rooms.
3. This is also to protect them from sharing MRSA, C-dif or other nosocomial pathogens.
4. The modesty curtain in rooms is often kept up from patient to patient but it can also become contaminate.
5. Be sure it is removed, disinfected and re-installed prior to the next patient.

Quarantine of Patients



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Quarantine rooms generally have their own in-suite restrooms which allows for private toilets and hand sinks

Quarantine of Patients



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Quarantine rooms generally have their own showers

Soiled Linens and Waste



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1. Each patient room should have two closed containers - one for soiled linen and one for waste.
2. During the pandemic, all of the waste is considered potentially infectious waste (i.e. used tissue).
3. This bagged waste should be secured in a closed bag by an employee wearing gloves who is encouraged to practice hand hygiene and frequent disinfection of commonly touched surfaces.

Laundry Piles



1. Due to shortages, some facilities have resorted to piling waste and dirty laundry into empty boxes lined with trash bags.
2. Clean clothing is hung on hangers on rolling racks and transported back to rooms.

Dirty Laundry



1. Laundry workers remove soiled linens and clothing from rooms and ensure that those items are returned to the appropriate rooms.
2. They should wear PPE and constantly be reminded about hand hygiene.

Disinfecting Laundry



1. Disinfection takes place during laundering for soiled linens and clothing.

Drying Laundry



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1. Drying also helps to deodorize and disinfect

Cross-Training



1. During the pandemic, staff shortages are widespread.
2. Some environmental services employees are helping in laundries and vice versa.
3. Be sure that the chemicals used are safe on the surfaces where they are being applied.
4. If the products are diluted, you must have a test kit to help ensure efficacy.
5. You must observe the proper dwell times for virus kill - some products used for overnight disinfecting have a 10-12 minute dwell time.

Cleaning Cart



1. Be sure that cleaning carts are service regularly.
2. See if the facility has a list of high-touch point surfaces to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases

Cleaning Services



1. There may be a need to hire additional staff or an outside cleaning company to help keep up with Environmental Services.
2. All staff should be trained to treat every patient as currently or potentially Covid +
3. The precautions they take must be universal to protect themselves from contracting Covid (i.e. eye and face cover, gloves, etc).
4. They should be taught how to don and doff gloves.

Chemical Cabinet



1. Cleaning chemicals should be labeled and locked in appropriate cabinets

UV Light Disinfection



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1. UV Light disinfection equipment can quickly disinfect any hard surfaces (wheel chairs, tables, trays etc.).
2. This New Tech disinfection device was \$10,000



New England Journal of Medicine produced this Covid viability chart which explains how long the pathogen can survive on these surfaces.

PPE Removal

- Move to a clean area away from patients and other staff
- Use your gloved hands to remove your gown and pull off your gloves at the same time
- Remove your booties with your hands
- Use hand sanitizer to disinfect your hands



1. Your safety is of the utmost importance.
2. Follow the lead of the physician you are with.

PPE Removal

- Don fresh gloves
- Remove your eye protection and discard it
- Remove the surgical mask and discard it
- Remove the N95 mask (save it)
- End by using hand sanitizer again



1. It is most important that you do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
2. This pathogen lives in mucous membranes so you must protect yours!

Questions or Concerns

Please contact Barry
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