



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Yolo County Healthcare Providers, Skilled Nursing, Long Term Care Facilities Services

From: Ron Chapman, MD, MPH
Health Officer, Yolo County

Date: April 8, 2020

Subject: COVID19 Outbreak Prevention and Control in Long Term Care Facilities

Situation Update: Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency has confirmation that one of our skilled nursing facilities has ten (10) confirmed COVID19 cases. In order to minimize the risk of potential spread due to inter-facility transfer of residents/patients and employees, we would like to remind all long-term care facilities of necessary preventative actions and of the requirement to report suspected outbreaks.

Key Points and Recommendations:

Prevent the introduction of respiratory pathogens INTO your facility:

- Continue to follow the Health Officer Order, restrict visitors.
- Ensure sick leave policies allow employees with symptoms of respiratory infection to stay home.
- Assess individuals for symptoms of respiratory infection upon admission to the facility.
- Implement appropriate infection prevention practices for incoming and current symptomatic residents.

Prevent the spread of respiratory pathogens WITHIN your facility:

- Keep residents and employees informed.
- Monitor residents and employees for fever or respiratory symptoms.
 - Restrict residents with fever or acute respiratory symptoms to their room.
 - In general, use **Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions** with eye protection when providing care to residents with undiagnosed respiratory infection, unless suspected diagnosis requires Airborne Precautions (e.g., tuberculosis).
- Encourage resident and employees to use hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cough etiquette.
- Provide the necessary training and supplies to ensure easy and correct use of PPE.
 - Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident room that clearly describe the type of precautions needed and the required PPE.

Prevent the spread of respiratory germs BETWEEN facilities

- Notify facilities of acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, prior to transferring a resident to a higher level of care.

- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to Yolo County Public Health.

According to CDC, close contact is defined as:

- being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time. Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case.
- Or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on).

If such contact occurs in the absence of recommended personal protective equipment or PPE, criteria for PUI consideration are met.

Additional information is available in CDC's updated guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

**Yolo County Infectious Disease/Public Health
8am – 5pm (530) 666-8670 | After hours (530) 321-3620**