|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **POLICY: Testing of Staff during a Pandemic** | **Subject: Pandemic Plan** |
| **Approved by:**  |  |
| **Effective:**  | **Revised:**  |

**POLICY:** In the event of a Pandemic, the facility will implement guidelines to screen Residents and any prospective admission for signs and symptoms associated with the infectious pathogen. Where applicable, the facility will follow guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

**PROCEDURE**:

**In-House Residents**

1. The facility will develop a screening tool/questionnaire for residents to identify those experiencing symptoms associated with the novel infectious pathogen. The screening tool may include temperature monitoring, symptom check, and other vital signs as stipulated by the NYS DOH/CDC guidelines.
2. The screening tool will be done daily or if indicated with any changes in condition.
3. The following interventions will be taken for Residents that trigger for signs/symptoms associated with the novel infectious pathogen:
* RNS assessment
* PMD notification
* Transmission Based Precautions as indicated
* Representative notification
* Lab testing and diagnostic work up as ordered
* Vital sign monitoring each shift including pulse oximetry as indicated
1. Residents that trigger for signs/symptoms associated with the novel infectious pathogen will be discussed at the Morning QI meeting and placed on the Line List for the novel infectious agent.
2. During the recovery phase all residents will have vital signs monitored daily.

 **Prospective Admissions/Re-admissions**

1. All new and readmissions will be pre-screened by Admission Office for the presence of the novel infectious pathogen
* The admission office will ascertain from the sending facility if the resident being admitted or re-admitted has been exposed to a confirmed or suspected of the infectious pathogen
* The admission office will ascertain the type of transmission-based precautions that the resident received during has required airborne precautions while in acute care.
* The admission department will ascertain if the resident was tested for the novel infectious pathogen in accordance with NYS DOH /CDC criteria.
* The DNS and Infection Control Preventionist will be notified and review information prior to admission to determine if the facility can provide the needed care for the resident.
* New /Readmissions will be cohorted based on infectious status and /or placed on quarantined with transmission-based precautions with vital sign monitoring daily and as needed in accordance with CDC and NYSDOH guidance.
1. Residents that are newly admitted and readmitted will have vital sings monitored each shift in accordance with the number of days the infectious pathogen can incubate.

All posted Policies and Procedures are current as of September 15, 2020 and are based on the current knowledge of COVID-19, CDC and NYS DOH guidelines, regulations and NY Executive Orders as they exist.  The Policies and Procedures are subject to amendment in accordance with any change to regulations, guidance, and/or executive orders.