



Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure	Subject: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
Effective:	Revised:

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2) referred to as Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The World Health Organization (WHO) has named the syndrome associated with the virus as COVID-19. The virus was first identified in China but now has been identified in 60 countries worldwide to date. Signs and symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Less common symptoms include sputum production, headache, hemoptysis, and diarrhea. The incubation time is believed to be approximately 4-7 days and the virus may be transmitted from asymptomatic patients. The length of time the virus can live on surfaces is not clear at present. Elderly and those with chronic medical conditions have demonstrated more severe illness than other populations at this time

POLICY:

The facility will conduct education, surveillance and infection control and prevention strategies to reduce the risk of transmission of the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The facility will implement actions according to CDC, NYSDOH and World Health Organization recommendations including identification, isolation and informing Health Department of any suspected cases of COVID-19. The facility will screen patients and visitors for symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., fever, cough, difficulty breathing) before entering your healthcare facility.

PROCEDURE:

Identifying and assessing for 2019 Novel Coronavirus:

1. Identify if in the past 14 days since first onset of symptoms for residents, staff and visitors: Travel to China and/or international travel to an affected country OR close contact with a person known to have 2019-nCoV illness **AND**
2. Fever (subjective or measured) OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)
3. If both exposure and illness are present, airborne isolation is required
 - a. Place facemask on person
 - b. Isolate the person in a private room with the door closed



- c. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) -including gloves, gown, mask and eye protection.
- d. Implement Transmission based precaution signage to include Contact and Droplet unless facility is capable of Airborne isolation. Limit entry to resident room.
- e. Contact and Inform Local Health Department of suspected infection and follow recommendations.
- f. Initiate 911 to transfer to an acute care hospital setting. Inform 911 personnel that resident requires airborne isolation precautions as resident has been identified as potentially being infected with 2019- nCoV
- g. Alert receiving hospital that resident requires airborne isolation
- h. Inform and reassure resident and resident representative that hospital evaluation is required.
- i. Following resident transfer keep room door closed for 4 -6 hours and then initiate terminal room cleaning with EPA approved disinfectant that includes labeling that includes coverage for emerging viruses.
- j. The facility will follow all NYSDOH and CDC updates and guidance regarding the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

REFERENCES:

CDC (2019). Infection Control Recommendations : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

WHO (2019). Infection Prevention Guidance Novel Coronavirus -2019
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/infection-prevention-and-control>.

CDC (2007). *Guideline for Isolation precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in healthcare Settings*: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/prevention.html>

CDC: Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV Infection), Jan 30, 2020 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>