

The Allendale Community for Senior Living

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| Subject: | COVID-19 Prevention & Control Plan |
| Department: | ALL DEPARTMENTS |
| Effective: | March 5, 2020 |
| Revised: | 11/30/20 as per E.D. No. 20-026 ¹ , 20-033 |

POLICY: The purpose of this policy is to ensure facility practices are in place to minimize exposures to respiratory pathogens including SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 virus. Signs and symptoms include, but are not limited to cough, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle or body ache, new loss of smell/taste, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

The incubation period for this virus is approximated at 7-14 days and can be transmitted from asymptomatic patients. The virus can live on surfaces for up to 3 days. Elderly persons and those with chronic medical conditions who test positive for COVID-19 often experience harsher symptoms which can lead to hospitalization and sometimes death.

Methods of Transmission:

- Close proximity/contact with a person infected with COVID-19.
- Exposure to respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- By touching a surface or object with the SARS-CoV-2 virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

Visitation to Allendale During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Security Door #23 at ACSL will be screening for symptoms of COVID-19 and fevers of 100.4 or greater as is guided by the CDC.
- Symptoms may include: cough, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle or body ache, new loss of smell/taste, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. If any visitor is experiencing symptoms they will not be permitted in the building, and will be denied outdoor visitation if it is available at that time.
- All visitors will be screened for a 14 day look back travel history in accordance with the Tri-state Travel Advisories Questionnaire at the Security Desk before entering.
- If the facility is in Phase 0, persons considered to be Essential Caregivers may visit for up to 2 hrs/visit, 1x/week. If in Phase 1 or 2, two visits are permitted per week totaling 4 hours.
- For more information on the visitation criteria for skilled nursing homes, please see Governor Murphy's Executive Directive No. 20-026¹, or visit:
https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/8-20_ExecutiveDirectiveNo20-026_LTCResumption_of_Svcs.pdf

Screening Residents for COVID-19 and Care Procedures:

- All residents will be checked q-shift for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 by the Nursing Department.
- If a resident has a fever of 100.4 or greater with cough, shortness of breath and sore throat, or any other COVID-19 symptoms, nursing staff and/or trained personnel will isolate him/her, and complete a COVID-19 swab and begin COVID-19 screening protocol.
- Nursing will then notify the MD and family of the symptoms found during their assessment.
- Nursing will then make active the MD's telephone orders for symptoms observed.
- If the MD orders a transfer, nursing will call 911 and notify hospital ER of possible COVID-19 symptoms and that the transferring resident may require airborne isolation precautions.
- Only personnel providing direct care to a resident suspected to have COVID-19 shall enter the room and is required to wear the proper PPE (gown, mask, face shield, gloves.)
- Allendale's infection preventionist and/or designated personnel will promptly notify state or local public health authorities of patients with known or suspected COVID-19, these residents are referred to as Persons Under Investigation, or PUI.

Cohorting Staff and Residents:

ACSL will be cohorting all residents who are found positive for COVID-19 and requires dedicated staff to remain on the COVID-19 unit when residents test positive for COVID-19. This will remain a standard of care throughout all shifts.

For more information regarding Allendale's dedicated COVID-19 units and admissions process please see the:

'Admission Process during COVID-19 Outbreak' Policy and Procedure

Communication:

- Daily updates will be sent via Constant Contact to families/representatives when each new COVID-19 case is confirmed, or whenever three or more residents or staff with new-onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other.
- Weekly updates will be provided re: outbreak updates and new/emerging protocols when visitation is curtailed.
- When visitation is curtailed, communication for residents will be facilitated via telephone, video chat, Facetime, or window visits etc. with families/loved ones. The Activities Department will field and schedule all appointments for in-house/outdoor family visitation 24 hours in advance of the visit depending on the Phase of the building.
- If the facility is at Phase II or higher, please see: **Outdoor Visitation Policy & Procedure**
- Stat or Emergency calls made to the building at Ph: 201-825-0660 and will be directed through the Allendale Security Desk to the Nursing Supervisor at the time of the call.
- For all other calls, concerns, requests, updates, please call and contact the facility Administrator, Michael V. Brienza, MPA, LNHA, CALA at Ph: 201-825-0660, ext. 1503.

Indoor End of Life, Compassionate Care, and Essential Caregiver Visitation Guidelines:

Hospice and/or compassionate care service representatives, or caregivers for recently admitted patients who are experiencing a significant change to their condition or sharp decline may be allowed to visit on a restricted schedule for the purposes of “compassionate care situations”. Visitation allowances for this population include: psycho-social declines, sudden lack of family, sharp declines in cognition, a resident who requires cueing for eating or drinking, or emotional decline or distress.

Visitations for this subset are allowed during Phase 0 up to 1x per week for a maximum of 2 hours. When in Phase 2 or 3, two visits are allowed for up to a total of 4 hours. Phase 3 assumes regular procedures. The ACSL also encourages courtyard window visits, FaceTime tablet chats, and telephonic conference calls for these families as well.

- For more information pertaining to the visitation criteria for skilled nursing homes outside of this scope, please see Governor Murphy’s Executive Directive No. 20-026¹, or again visit:
https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/8-20_ExecutiveDirectiveNo20-026_LTCResumption_of_Svcs.pdf

Staffing:

- All person’s considered essential personnel including clinical vendors will continue to be screened and logged at door #23 for symptoms, temperature checks, COVID-19 PUI encounter questionnaire, Travel Ban Questionnaire, hand hygiene, wearing face masks, and will be expected to don/doff the proper PPE as determined by the task provided to the resident.
- Allendale’s infection preventionist will follow all employees who exhibit any symptoms related to COVID-19 and those employees will not be permitted into the building for 14 days.
- If febrile with respiratory symptoms, employee will be out of work for 14 days.

For further details related to staffing during the COVID-19 pandemic please see:

Emergency Staffing Preparedness Policy & Procedure

Testing:

Starting November 30, 2020 through December 14, 2020:

- All staff and outsourced staff/visitors to the building will be tested on an every other day basis using the BINAXNow testing kits.
- Upon completion of the pilot BINAXNow testing ACSL will restart weekly testing in accordance with the E.D. 20-026.
- All testing will be reported through the NHSN POC module at least once per week, however, positive results **MUST** be reported immediately to the local DOH.
- Resident testing will continue as per the E.D. 20-026:
 - Repeat weekly testing of all residents (every 3 to 7 days) until: 1.) there are no new facility-onset cases of COVID-19 amongst residents, 2.) there are no new positives on staff, 3.) at least 14 days have lapsed since the last staff positive, and 4.) during the same 14 day period at least two weekly tests have both proved negatives for all staff and residents.

For more information related to Allendale’s testing procedures, please see:

https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/11-30-20_ExecutiveDirectiveNo20-033_LTCFpointOfCareTesting.pdf

Training and Education:

- The Medical Director, Administrator, DON, ADON, and Staff Educator will provide ongoing training and education to all the staff/caregivers re: COVID-19 pathology, pandemic trends, company policies and procedure, and local/state/federal guidelines.
- All staff will receive job or task-specific education and training on preventing transmission of infectious agents, including COVID-19, associated with healthcare during orientation to the facility.
- This information will be updated periodically during ongoing education and training programs.
- Task specific competencies will be conducted initially and repeated, as appropriate, for all staff/caregivers.
- Staff employed by and outside vendor must meet these education and training requirements through programs offered by ACSL. Education will include but is not limited to:
 - Signs/symptoms, complications, risk factors.
 - Handwashing, respiratory hygiene and infection control.
 - Appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
 - OSHA workplace practices including infection control procedures to reduce exposure.

Please see these References & Guidance Links:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/index.shtml> (CALI Score Index)

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NJDOH_Quick_Reference_ED_No.20-026%20.pdf (Phase Guidance)

<https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/> (COVID-19 Temporary Operational Waivers, Guidelines, and Executive Directives)

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml> (Communicable Disease Database)

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/index.html> (CDC Library)

For more information please call:

General COVID-19 Questions: 2-1-1

Medical COVID-19 Questions: 1-800-962-1253