



Pine Brook Care Center Outbreak Response Plan

As required by the New Jersey Department of Health, Pine Brook Care Center has developed an Outbreak Response Plan. The Outbreak Plan is maintained and revised when necessary. The Outbreak Plan addresses: Prevention, Assessment, and Mitigation of Infectious Diseases

If an infectious disease outbreak occurs the facility has disease specific interventions that are implemented to mitigate the outbreak and prevent the spread. If the disease is a novel organism the Infection Control Preventionist works closely with the NJDOH, CDC and CMS regarding actions to be taken.

Isolating & Cohorting infected and at-risk residents:

Protocol for isolating and cohorting infected and at-risk patients in the event of an outbreak of a contagious disease until the cessation of the outbreak.

Cohorting is the practice of grouping residents who are or are not colonized or infected with the same organism to confine their care to one area and prevent contact with other residents. If needed a cohorting plan will be implemented using three basic groupings:

1. COVID-19 Positive – This cohort consists of both symptomatic and asymptomatic residents who test positive for COVID-19, including any new or re-admissions.
2. Observation – This cohort serves as an observation area where new admissions or readmissions remain for 14 days to monitor for symptoms that may be compatible with COVID-19.
3. COVID-19 Negative/COVID-19 Recovered – This cohort consists of residents that have recovered from COVID-19 or who are negative and asymptomatic.

Communication & Notification Protocol

Per CMS rule, our facility has a documented communication plan and is informing residents, their representatives, families of the residents, and employees by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following the subsequent occurrence of either:

- Each time a single confirmed infection of COVID-19 is identified
- Whenever three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occur within 72 hours of each other.

Our facility communicates with residents, their families or guardians, and staff regarding infectious disease outbreaks through various media. Information regarding infectious disease outbreaks are provided in person and through postings for residents, staff, and permissible visitors. Families or guardians are made aware of infectious disease outbreaks through notification via telephone, email, and our website.



Staffing Protocol

Staffing protocols address work restrictions, alternative plans to staff if shortages occur, and use of personal protective equipment to protect staff and residents during an outbreak to minimize the spread of infection and ensure resident care needs are met. The facility will make every effort to have routine employee unit assignments. The facility maintains contracts with staffing agencies in the event of a new outbreak that has the potential to effect staffing requirements

Surveillance Protocol

Our facility conducts routine monitoring of residents and staff to quickly identify signs of a communicable disease that could develop into an outbreak.

- Employees are monitored for signs of symptoms when they report to work. Employees are required to notify their supervisor or director if they develop symptoms at work or prior to work.
- Resident specific surveillance will be completed by nursing department daily

Laboratory Protocol

Disease specific testing protocols are implemented to quickly identify all affected individuals, initiate infection control actions and implement treatments.

Lab testing are disease specific and these decisions are guided by medical orders, CDC, and NJDOH directives, guidance, and best practices.

Public Health Reporting Protocol

Based upon surveillance data, the Administrator, Medical Director and Director of Nursing will be notified of any suspected reportable disease.

- All infectious disease outbreaks are reported to public health officials in accordance with applicable executive directives and regulatory guidance.
- Any resident(s) or staff be suspected or diagnosed as having a reportable communicable/infectious disease according to State-specific criteria, such information shall be promptly reported to appropriate local and/or state health department officials.