ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 10 March 2020
Response Date: 12 March 2020; Updated 11 June 2020
Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked for guidance documents and hygiene protocol resources relevant to long term care (LTC) facilities preparing for COVID-19.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing ASPR TRACIE resources, including those on our Novel Coronavirus Resources (including the COVID-19 Long Term Care Resources Topic Collection) and Infectious Disease Resources web pages and in the Long-term Care Facilities and Influenza Epidemic/Pandemic Topic Collections. We also conducted a search online for relevant materials. The resources gathered in this document include hygiene protocols and guidance documents specific to infectious diseases in healthcare facilities, in particular LTCs.

Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus Disease 2019 web page for the most up-to-date clinical guidance on COVID-19 outbreak management.

I. COVID-19 Resources for Healthcare Facilities

American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living. (n.d.). Coronavirus. (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

> This web page includes a variety of resources developed by two organizations representing LTC, post-acute care, and assisted living providers. Included are a summary of preparedness steps, guidance documents for skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, a screening checklist for skilled nursing facilities, a sample notice to families about visitor restrictions, training materials, and links to additional resources.

California Department of Public Health. (n.d.). Guidance Documents: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

> This web page includes links to facility letters issued by the state health department related to COVID-19. Click on each link to view the letters that apply to each facility type.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

> This guidance applies to nursing homes and LTCs and emphasizes the importance of having a strong infection prevention and control program. The page has links to

additional resources for nursing homes and LTCs, including the [Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Nursing Homes Preparing for COVID-19](#).

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2020). [Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This toolkit is a compendium of innovative actions that states implemented to protect nursing home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Healthcare Resilience Task Force. (2020). [Nursing Home Concepts of Operations for Infection Prevention and Control.](#)

This Concept of Operations document provides an overview of recommendations and resources for nursing homes that can help reduce the impact of COVID-19 on residents and staff.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. (2020). [Guidelines for Preventing and Managing COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities (e.g., Skilled Nursing Facilities)](#).

This document identifies actions that LTCs should take to ensure their staff is ready to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. It includes planning considerations for infection prevention and control; identification, isolation, and care for COVID-19 patients; and links to additional resources.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2020). [COVID-19 Toolkit: Information for Long-Term Care Facilities](#).

This comprehensive toolkit provides information for LTC facilities to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. Appendices include checklists, logs, signage, a sample risk assessment, and other forms.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. (2020). [COVID-19 Outbreak Toolkit for Long-Term Care Settings.](#)

This toolkit contains several resources to assist LTCs respond to COVID-19. Resources include: Long-Term Care Infection Prevention Assessment Tool, Infection Prevention Staffing Worksheet, links to infection prevention education resources, strategies to optimize facemasks and gowns, and What to Expect: Response to New COVID-19 Cases or Outbreaks in Long Term Care Settings.

San Francisco Department of Public Health. (2020). [COVID-19 Preparedness and Management Toolkit for Skilled Nursing Facilities](#).

This toolkit based on lessons learned during the successful response to a COVID-19 outbreak in a hospital provides guidance to skilled nursing facilities to prevent, contain, and mitigate COVID-19 in their facilities.

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The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. (n.d.). AMDA Update on COVID-19. (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

This web page includes a variety of helpful resources, including guidance for post-acute and long-term care settings, frequently asked questions, podcasts, webinars, resources for residents and their loved ones, and sample signage.

Washington State Department of Health. (n.d.). Long Term Care Facilities. (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

The state health department established this web page to collect resources to assist LTC facilities in their response to COVID-19. Included is a sample visitor announcement; guidance for persons at higher risk for serious illness, for LTCs, and for transfers between LTCs and other healthcare settings; LTC facility outbreak criteria; a nursing home infection prevention assessment tool; information on the state's point prevalence testing order; and LTC reporting requirements.

II.   Additional Infectious Disease Hygiene Resources for Healthcare Facilities

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (2017). A Unit Guide to Infection Prevention for Long-Term Care Staff. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This free, online guide provides general infection control training for LTC facility staff.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 51(RR-16).

This guideline reviews research literature and provides recommendations related to hand hygiene in healthcare facilities.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings (2007). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This document provides infection control guidelines for healthcare settings across the continuum of care. It is intended to inform the development, implementation, and evaluation of infection control and prevention programs in healthcare settings.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Nursing Homes and Assisted Living (Long-term Care Facilities [LTCFs]). (Accessed 6/11/2020). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This web page provides general information for LTC facilities with an emphasis on infection prevention tools, training, and information.

Minnesota Department of Health, Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology – Minnesota, and Health Care Coalitions of Minnesota. (2019). [High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) Toolbox for Frontline Healthcare Facilities](#).

This toolbox includes a variety of resources to assist frontline facilities in their readiness activities related to patients with high consequence infectious diseases. Included are planning and training tools, exercise templates, and the components to create a readiness binder. While directed at frontline facilities, the contents may be adapted for other settings.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. (n.d.). [Hierarchy of Controls](#). (Accessed 6/11/2020.) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC.

This web page provides an overview of the hierarchy of controls that all healthcare facilities should follow to protect healthcare workers.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (n.d.). [A Handbook for Infection Control in Nursing Homes](#). (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

This handbook reviews CDC recommended best practices for infection control in nursing homes. It also includes lessons learned from 73 nursing homes that participated in New York City's Infection Control Assessment and Response program.

New York City Health + Hospitals. (n.d.). [Special Pathogens Preparedness Tools and Resources](#). (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

While directed at frontline healthcare facilities, the resources on this page can be adapted for other settings. The Frontline Hospital Planning Guide: Special Pathogens provides high-level planning information for frontline hospital multidisciplinary teams to support planning and training for the initial care of suspected special pathogen patients, including those with special respiratory diseases. The Frontline Facility Special Pathogens Course Content includes complementary, in-depth training.

Smith, P, Bennett, G., Bradley, S., et al. (2008). [SHEA/APIC Guideline: Infection Prevention and Control in the Long-Term Care Facility](#). American Journal of Infection Control. 36(7):504-527.

This article from the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology outlines infection control recommendations for LTC facilities.

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