



**Pandemic Influenza, Infection Control Measures
During
Infection Control – Bioterrorism & Disaster
Preparedness**

Policy Statement

When pandemic influenza is detected in the geographic region of the facility, aggressive infection control measures will be implemented to prevent introduction of the virus to residents, staff and visitors.

Policy Interpretation and Implementation

1. Due to the increased risk of mortality from influenza in the frail elderly, infection control measures to prevent the introduction or spread of the influenza virus is a priority.
2. Early prevention of influenza outbreak consists of the following measures:
 - a. Training clinical staff in the modes of transmission of the influenza virus;
 - b. Training residents, families and non-clinical staff on the symptoms of influenza and standard infection control precautions (e.g., handwashing, respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette, etc.);
 - c. Vaccination of residents and staff;
 - d. Early detection of influenza cases in the facility;
 - e. Use of antiviral medications to treat ill persons, as recommended by current clinical practice guidelines;
 - f. Isolation of infected residents in private rooms or cohort units;
 - g. Use of appropriate barrier precautions during resident care; and
 - h. Restriction of visitors who have been exposed to or are symptomatic of influenza.
3. If pandemic influenza is detected in the geographic region of the facility, the following measures will be taken to prevent or delay the introduction of the virus to the facility:
 - a. Display signs and/or posters (in appropriate languages) at the entry to the facility restricting entry by any persons who have been exposed to or have symptoms of pandemic influenza;
 - b. Train staff to visually and verbally screen visitors at facility entry points for respiratory symptoms of pandemic influenza;
 - c. Provide a telephone number for family and visitors to call for information regarding prevention and control strategies for pandemic influenza;
 - d. Screen all employees for influenza-like illness before coming on duty and send any symptomatic employees home;
 - e. Refer to Pandemic Influenza Plan for employee absences and contact Medical Director, Clinical consultants and or Division Medical Director; and
 - f. Increase resident surveillance for influenza-like illness. Notify local or state health department if a case is suspected.
4. If an outbreak of pandemic influenza occurs within the facility, strict adherence to standard and transmission-based precautions and other infection control measures will be implemented according to the most current CDC recommendations for pandemic influenza.

References	
Other References	www.cdc.gov/flu and www.pandemicflu.gov
Related Documents	Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Detection
Generations Revisions	March 2020
Version	1.2 (H5MAPL1006)