

## Communicable Disease Outbreak

**Purpose:** To identify and contain a contagious disease outbreak in the community.

**Definition:** An active monitoring and awareness of one or more persons who have a highly contagious or dangerous disease such as tuberculosis and Ebola, or two or more individuals living in and/or working in the community who has the same symptoms of a less serious, yet potentially harmful, contagious disease such as gastrointestinal virus (Noro), or influenza.

**Process:**

1) Residents and staff will be made aware of ways to prevent and reduce the spread of infectious diseases. These measures include but are not limited to:

- Immunizations for flu, pneumonia, and other contagious diseases
- Promote and practice effective hand washing procedures for staff and residents
- Use hand sanitizer often
- Sanitize touched surfaces frequently
- Promote and practice respiratory hygiene
- Report when symptoms such as fever, diarrhea, vomiting and other abnormal signs occur
- Stay away from others when ill – workers stay home when ill, residents stay in your apartment when ill
- Get medical care when experiencing symptoms or feeling ill

2) Prevention and awareness will occur through in-services (with return demonstration for hand washing), meetings with resident groups, meetings with individuals, posters, written communication, internal communication resources (TV, newsletters, etc.), and signage for visitors and outside vendors.

3) Once a contagious disease is identified to be in the general community and/or is identified within the senior living community seek advice from the company clinical expert(s) (Registered Nurse or Physician) and contact the local department of health for directions about prophylactic medications, isolation, barrier precautions, disinfection of the environment, restriction of visitors who have been exposed to the disease, and other steps needed based on the specific disease.

4) If a serious outbreak of a highly contagious and dangerous disease occurs within the community, strict adherence to standard and transmission-based precautions and other infection control measures will be implemented according to the most current CDC recommendations for the disease.

- 5) Separate confidential lists of the residents and employees with the disease symptoms shall be maintained and used to track and monitor the course of the disease and the outcome of the individual. These lists are not to be shared with anyone, except for the local department of health upon their request.
- 6) The community will provide supportive care for residents such as meals, fluids, and facilitate transportation for medical care or to the hospital as needed.
- 7) Employees who have symptoms will seek medical care and return to work with a note stating that they are able to work and they are not contagious.
- 8) Housekeeping will be instructed on and use personal protective equipment for all housekeeping activities where contaminants exist.
- 9) Continuous surveillance is ongoing through monitoring employee health status when reporting for work and through monitoring residents for common symptoms.