ACTION BRIEF
COVID-19 Infection Control Focused Survey

HIGHLIGHTS: COVID-19 Infection Control Focused Survey

On March 23, 2020, CMS announced federal and state surveyors will conduct targeted infection control surveys of providers. They will base the survey on abbreviated infection & prevention survey tool.

Surveyors will review:

- Implementation of the infection prevention and control program components, including copy of the required policy and procedure, staff training, and infection logs
- Observe staff compliance with Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions (taking into consideration critical shortages of PPE), including hand washing, PPE donning & doffing
- Observe care practices with COVID-19 positive residents
- Surveillance log and reporting for residents with infections or infectious symptoms
- Visitor entry and facility screening practices and logs of screenings
- Copies of education, monitoring and screening practices of staff
- Facility policies and procedures to address staffing issues during emergencies, including COVID-19 transmission

REVIEW & ACTION: Implementation Strategies and Tips

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<th>Preparation for COVID-19 Infection Control Focused Surveys</th>
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**What else can you do to prepare for this new focused survey?**

- Reduce the number of people interactions with residents - because every interaction is a risk for spread
- Conduct self-assessment to evaluate your infection control program using CMS tool
- Implement peer monitoring and just-in-time education (e.g. hand hygiene, PPE practices)
- Educate all staff to be aware of common infection control deficiencies (e.g. inappropriate hand hygiene practices, inappropriate use of PPE and donning/doffing practices)
- Educate all staff on standard and transmission-based precautions and how to use CDC conservation measures for PPE
- Observe staff to ensure proper procedures are being used for handwashing, donning and doffing of PPE; consider enlisting residents in this process and including non-nursing staff
- Educate residents on basic infection control practices (e.g. cough etiquette, letting staff know when they don’t feel 100%, staying in their room, hand hygiene) and source control masks
- Communicate with family members about the importance of basic infection control practices
- Evaluate your staffing policies and procedures during crisis and make updates as needed

**TIPS**

- Use the CMS Infection Control Focused Survey Tool to self-assess before survey is performed in your facility
- Incorporate peer-to-peer monitoring of infection control practices
- Observe staff practices to verify proper procedures are being performed and provide just in time teaching as needed
- Ensure you communicate with all staff about infection control practices and training updates and reminders as needed
RESOURCES: Additional Materials to Help You

1. AHCA/NCAL COVID-19 Update #18
2. Infection Control Focused Survey Tool
3. CMS QSO-20-20-All Memo on Prioritization of Survey Activities
4. AHCA/NCAL Infection Prevention Control Officer training
5. COVID-19 education on ahcancalED
6. AHCA/NCAL dedicated COVID-19 webpage
7. CDC’s COVID-19 webpage
8. CDC’s COVID-19 Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes and other Long Term Care Settings
9. White House, CDC, FEMA dedicated webpage