

## When a Patient or Resident is on Isolation

- Follow the precautions sign on the patient or resident's door. Depending on the precautions that are in place you may need to wear any or all of the following personal protective equipment: gown, gloves, mask, and/or eye wear.
- Follow the signs explaining how to put on and remove PPE or ask a nurse if you are unsure of what to do.
- Once the patient or resident is removed from precautions you will no longer be required to wear the personal protective equipment.
- Visitor restrictions will remain in place until the outbreak is declared over by the Medical Health Officer.

## What can I do to help? Hand Hygiene

Proper hand hygiene is the single most important thing you can do to keep yourself and our patients and residents safe.



## What you need to know about Outbreaks



Information for Patients, Residents, Families, and Visitors

## What is an outbreak?

An outbreak is when several people (residents, patients, or staff) develop similar signs and symptoms of a contagious illness at the same time.

## When an Outbreak is Declared

- The facility is **closed** and admissions and transfers are suspended.
- Activities and outings will be suspended or cancelled until the outbreak is declared over.
- Visiting by the general public is suspended.
- Infection Control **MUST** be notified if an exception for compassionate visiting is required. When exceptions permitted:
  - Visitors must wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub when entering and exiting the facility and when entering and exiting a residents room.
  - Do not visit if you are showing any of the following symptoms: cough, fever, diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.
  - Exit the facility immediately after your visit; do not visit other patients or residents.

## What is surveillance?

When it is suspected an outbreak might be starting a facility may be placed on surveillance.

## When Surveillance is Declared

- Activities and outings will be discussed with Infection Control on a case by case basis.
- Please check with nursing staff prior to entering the affected unit.
- You will be allowed to visit only your loved one and no one else.
- Exit the facility immediately after your visit; do not visit other patients or residents.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub when entering and exiting the facility and when entering and exiting a patient's or resident's room.
- Do not visit if you are showing any of the following symptoms: cough, fever, diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.

## Why are Facilities/Units closed to visitors and admissions during an outbreak?

Some infections like Influenza and norovirus are easily spread from person to person. These illnesses can cause serious illness and death in people at high risk including the elderly, children, people with weakened immune systems, and other medical conditions. The sooner the infection can be contained the less people that will be exposed and the less people that will become ill.

## How long will the Facility/Unit remain closed?

The length of time a facility or unit will remain closed depends on the type of infection causing the illnesses. The Medical Health Officer directs the closing and the opening of the facility/unit and receives daily information from the facility/unit to help make the decisions to close or open the facility.