Management of Residents with Respiratory Symptoms

SOUTHWESTERN Public Health
Oxford • Elgin • St.Thomas

STEP 1: Assessment

Is the resident experiencing **2 or more** new or unusual respiratory symptoms **OR** is there concern of a viral respiratory illness (i.e. symptoms not due to an underlying condition, allergy, etc.)?

- **Yes** → Is there more than one resident with similar symptoms within a 48-hour period?
- **No** → No further action required. If the resident develops new or worsening symptoms, go back to **step 1.**
- **Uncertain** → ISOLATION & ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS

STEP 2: Reporting to SWPH

Is there more than one resident with similar symptoms within a 48-hour period?

- **Yes** → Call SWPH at **1-800-922-0096**
- **No** → SWPH does not need to be notified. Follow the instructions in **steps 3, 4 & 5** below.

STEP 3: Isolation & Additional Precautions

ISOLATION & ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS

- **Case Isolation:** Isolate the ill resident in a private room. If a private room is not available, isolate the ill resident with their roommate with the following precautions in place: 1) draw the curtain 2) dedicate equipment 3) encourage masking 4) ensure adequate ventilation.
- **Roommate Isolation:** Isolate asymptomatic roommate.
- **Duration of isolation:** Go to **step 5 test results.**
- **PPE:** Use droplet & contact precautions while providing direct care or interacting with residents who are in isolation.
- **Cleaning & Disinfection:** Increase frequency of cleaning & disinfection of high-touch items and surfaces. Usual hospital grade disinfectant is adequate.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Is the number one way to prevent the spread of infection. Ensure staff, residents and visitors perform frequent hand hygiene.

ISOLATION & ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS

- **Isolate** resident for 24 hours & monitor for new or worsening symptoms.
- **Consult** with the resident's physician for an assessment.
- **PPE:** Use droplet & contact precautions when providing direct care or interacting with the resident.
- **Cleaning & Disinfection:** Increase frequency of cleaning & disinfection of high-touch items and surfaces. Usual hospital grade disinfectant is adequate.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Is the number one way to prevent the spread of infection. Ensure staff, residents and visitors perform frequent hand hygiene.
- **If new or worsening symptoms develop**, go back to step 1.
- **If NO new or worsening symptoms develop and/or if there is an alternate, non-infectious diagnosis,** isolation and additional precautions may be discontinued, and testing is not required.

STEP 4: Testing

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT

- **Collect a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab** for COVID-19 AND MRVP testing.
- **Complete a General Test Requisition for respiratory samples.**
  - Use the medical director or resident's physician as the ordering provider for non-outbreak samples.
  - Ensure "COVID-19 and Respiratory Viruses" is written in the Test(s) Requested section.
  - Ensure the resident demographics on the requisition match the demographics on the specimen container.
- **Submit** non-outbreak samples (i.e., a sample from one sporadic ill resident) to the lab using your facility courier.
- **Contact** SWPH to discuss specimen collection and transport during a suspect or confirmed outbreak.

STEP 5: Test Results

COVID-19

Case Isolation: Isolate for 5 days from symptom onset date AND until symptoms improved for 24 hours.

- **Residents able to mask:** Mask for 10 days from symptom onset date. Avoid communal dining and activities with non-exposed residents if masking cannot be maintained.
- **Residents unable to mask:** Remain isolated on droplet & contact precautions for 10 days from symptom onset date.

Roommate Isolation:

- **In the same room:** Isolate for 5 days, then mask when around others until day 10 from when the case became symptomatic.
- **In a separate room:** Isolate for 3 days, then mask when around others until day 7 from when the case became symptomatic.
- *Roommates who are unable to mask should maintain distance when around others.*

PPE: Use droplet & contact precautions while providing direct care or interacting with residents in isolation.
Antivirals: Consult with resident's physician.
SWPH Notification Required: Yes.

Influenza, RSV, Human Metapneumovirus, Rhinovirus. Parainfluenza, Seasonal Coronavirus, Adenovirus, Unknown (No Pathogen Detected)

Case Isolation: Isolate for 5 days from symptom onset OR until symptom-free, whichever is sooner. Encourage masking & distancing for 10 days from symptom onset.

Roommate Isolation:

- **In the same room:** Isolate for 5 days, then mask when around others until day 10 from when the case became symptomatic.
- **In a separate room:** Isolate for 3 days, then mask when around others until day 7 from when the case became symptomatic.
- *Roommates who are unable to mask should maintain distance when around others*

PPE: Use droplet & contact precautions while providing direct care or interacting with residents in isolation.
Antivirals (Influenza only): Consult with resident's physician.
SWPH Notification Required: For an influenza case OR if there is a cluster of cases (with or without test results).

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