

## Seneca Health Care Center

### Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Seneca Health Care

Center 2987 Seneca

Street

West Seneca,

NY 14224

[www.mcguire](http://www.mcguire)

[group.com](http://www.mcguiregroup.com)

## Emergency Contacts

The following table lists contact information for public safety and public health representatives for quick reference during an emergency.

**Table 1: Emergency Contact Information**

Organization	Phone Number(s)
Local Fire Department	West Seneca FD - (716) 674-2280
Local Police Department	West Seneca PD - (716) 674-2280
Emergency Medical Services	911
Local Office of Emergency Management (Erie County)	716-858-6578
NYSDOH Regional Office (Buffalo Office)	716-847-4320
NYSDOH Duty Officer	866-881-2809
New York State Watch Center (Warning Point) (Non-Business Hours)	518-292-2200

## Plan Approval

This Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) has been approved for implementation by:

Kirsten Whittlemore  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name]  
 [Title and Organization]

8/19/25  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Date]

\_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name]  
 [Title and Organization]

\_\_\_\_\_  
 [Date]



## Introduction

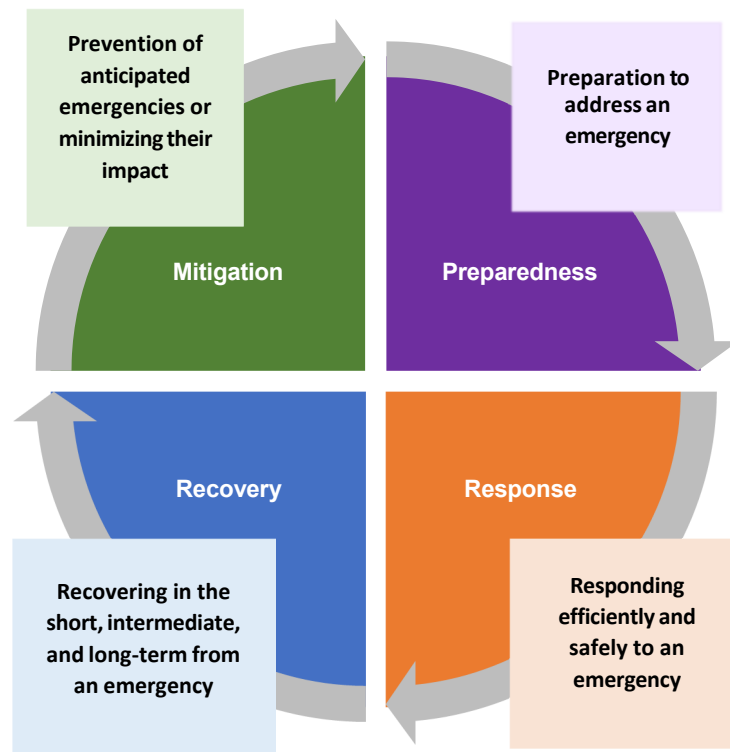
To protect the well-being of residents, staff, and visitors, the following all-hazards Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed and includes considerations necessary to satisfy the requirements for a Pandemic Emergency Plan (PEP). Appendix K of the CEMP has been adjusted to meet the needs of the PEP and will also provide facilities a form to post for the public on the facility's website, and to provide immediately upon request. The CEMP is informed by the conduct of facility-based and community-based risk assessments and pre-disaster collaboration with the following stakeholders:

- Facility leadership team
- Erie County Emergency Services
- Cheektowaga PD
- Bellevue FD
- WNY Mutual Aid Plan

This CEMP is a living document that must be reviewed on an annual basis, and updated as needed.

## Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to describe the facility's approach to mitigating the effects of, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, man-made incidents, and/or facility emergencies.



## Scope

The scope of this plan extends to any event that disrupts, or has the potential to significantly disrupt, the provision of normal standards of care and/or continuity of operations, regardless of the cause of the incident (i.e., man-made or natural disaster).

The plan provides the facility with a framework for the facility's emergency preparedness program and utilizes an all-hazards approach to develop facility capabilities and capacities to address anticipated events.

An Incident Command System (ICS) framework will act as the operational component of this CEMP. The ICS framework allows for maximum flexibility and scalability and is capable of utilizing a facility's present resources onsite to manage any type and size disaster.

## Situation

### Risk Assessment

The facility conducts an annual risk assessment (i.e. Hazard Vulnerability Assessment –HVA) to identify which natural and man-made hazards pose the greatest risk to the facility (i.e., human and economic losses based on the vulnerability of people, buildings, and infrastructure).

The facility conducted a facility-specific risk assessment on 8/19/25 and determined the following hazards may affect the facility's ability to maintain operations before, during, and after an incident:

- Fire
- Extreme heat and/or cold
- Infectious disease (i.e. COVID 19, MRSA, C diff, etc.)
- Winter storm/severe weather
- Loss of essential services (electric, gas, water, sewage, communications)
- Hurricane/coastal storms
- High winds/tornado
- Flooding (internal and external)
- Missing resident
- Labor action (i.e. strike, work stoppage)
- Active Shooter/threat
- Intruder onsite
- Chemical, Biological, Nuclear disaster
- Bomb threat
- Incoming surge of residents from the community

This risk information serves as the foundation for the plan—including associated policies, procedures, and preparedness activities all of which are contained within this multipart document.

## Mitigation Overview

The facility conducts an annual risk assessment (i.e. Hazard Vulnerability Assessment –HVA) to identify which natural and man-made hazards pose the greatest risk to the facility (i.e., human and economic losses based on the vulnerability of people, buildings, and infrastructure).

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### **Planning Assumptions**

This plan is guided by the following planning assumptions:

- Emergencies and disasters can occur without notice, any day, and on any shift.
- Emergencies and disasters may be facility-specific, local, regional, or state-wide.
- Local and/or state authorities may declare an emergency.
- The facility may receive requests from other facilities for resource support (supplies, equipment, staffing, or to serve as a receiving facility).
- Facility security may be compromised during an emergency.
- The emergency may exceed the facility's capabilities and external emergency resources may be unavailable. The facility is expected to be able to function without an influx of outside supplies or assistance for 72 hours.
- Power systems (including emergency generators) could fail.
- During an emergency, it may be difficult for some staff to get to the facility, or alternately, they may need to stay in the facility for a prolonged period of time.

## **Notification and Activation**

### **Hazard Identification**

The facility may receive advance warning about an impending natural disaster (e.g., hurricane forecast) or man-made threat (e.g., law enforcement report), which will be used to determine initial response activities and the movement of personnel, equipment, and supplies. For no-notice incidents (e.g., active shooter, tornado), facilities will not receive advance warning about the disaster, and will need to determine response activities based on the impact of the disaster.

The Incident Commander may designate a staff member to monitor evolving conditions, typically through television news, reports from government authorities, and weather forecasts.

All staff have a responsibility to report potential or actual hazards or threats to their direct supervisor.

### **Activation**

Upon notification of hazard or threat—from staff, residents, or external organizations—the senior-most on-site facility official will determine whether to activate the plan based on one or more of the triggers below:

- The potential for a significant disruption to normal clinical and/or business operations
- The facility has determined to implement a protective action.
- The facility is serving as a receiving facility.
- The facility is testing the plan during internal and external exercises (i.e., fire drills, disaster drills, etc.).

If one or more activation criteria are met and the plan is activated, the senior-most on-site facility official—or the most appropriate official based on the incident—will assume the role of “Incident Commander” and operations proceed as outlined in this document.

**Staff Notification**

Once a hazard or threat report has been made, an initial notification message will be disseminated to staff in accordance with the facility's communication plan.

Department Managers or their designees will contact on-duty personnel to provide additional instructions and solicit relevant incident information from personnel (e.g., status of residents, status of equipment).

Once on-duty personnel have been notified, Department Managers will notify off-duty personnel if necessary and provide additional guidance/instruction (e.g., request to report to facility).

Department personnel are to follow instructions from Department Managers, keep lines of communication open, and provide status updates in a timely manner.

**External Notification**

Depending on the type and severity of the incident, the facility may also notify external parties (e.g., local office of emergency management, resource vendors, relatives and responsible parties) utilizing local notification procedures to request assistance (e.g., guidance, information, resources) or to provide situational awareness.

The NYSDOH Regional Office is a mandatory notification recipient regardless of hazard type, while other notifications may be hazard-specific. **Table 4** provides a comprehensive list of mandatory and recommended external notification recipients based on hazard type.

**Table 2: Notification by Hazard Type**

**M** = Mandatory  
**R** = Recommended

		Example Hazard	Active Threat	Winter Storm	Coastal Storm	Intruder Alert	Water Disruption	Earthquake	Extreme Cold	Extreme Heat	Fire	Flood	CBRNE	Infectious Disease/ Pandemic	Labor Action	IT/Comms Failure	Power Outage	Tornado/High Wind	Loss of Resident
<b>Notification Recipient</b>	<b>NYSDOH Regional Office</b>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
	<b>Facility Senior Leader</b>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
	<b>Local Emergency Management</b>	R	M	R	R	□	R	M	□	□	□	R	R	R	□	□	□	R	□
	<b>Local Law Enforcement</b>		M	□	R	M	□	R	□	□	M	R	M	□	R	□	□	□	R
	<b>Local Fire/EMS</b>		M	□	R	□	R	M	R	R	M	R	M	□	□	□	R	R	R
	<b>Local Health Department</b>	R	M	M	M	□	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
	<b>Off Duty Staff</b>		R	□	R	□	□	R	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
	<b>Relatives and Responsible Parties</b>		□	□	□	□	□	R	□	□	□	□	□	M	□	□	□	□	M
	<b>Resource Vendors</b>		□	R	R	□	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	□	R	R	R	R	□
	<b>Authority Having Jurisdiction</b>		□	□	R	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
	<b>Mutual Aid Plan Operation Ctr</b>		R	R	R	□	□	R	□	□	R	R	R	□	□	□	□	R	□
	<b>TMG Leadership</b>		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M

\*Notifications as they relate to this chart are only documenting the **immediate need** to update the parties above. For example, responsible parties would rarely be updated during the onset of the disaster. Rather, they would all be notified at an appropriate time after the emergency has been stabilized.

## Mobilization

### Incident Management Team (IMT)

Upon plan activation, the Incident Commander will activate some or all positions of the Incident Management Team, which is comprised of pre-designated personnel who are trained and assigned to plan and execute response and recovery operations.

Incident Management Team activation is designed to be flexible and scalable depending on the type, scope, and complexity of the incident. As a result, the Incident Commander will decide to activate the entire team or select positions based on the extent of the emergency.

**Table 5** outlines suggested facility positions to fill each of the Incident Management Team positions. The most appropriate individual given the event/incident may fill different roles as needed.

**Table 3: Incident Management Team - Facility Position Crosswalk**

Incident Position	Facility Position Title	Description
<b>Incident Commander</b>	Highest ranking management team member onsite during the individual incident.	Leads the response and activates and manages other Incident Management Team positions.
<b>Public Information Officer</b>	TMG Director of Communications	Provides information and updates to visitors, relatives and responsible parties, media, and external organizations.
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Environmental Services Manager (ESM) or Asst. ESM/Housekeeping Manager	Ensures safety of staff, residents, and visitors; monitors and addresses hazardous conditions; empowered to halt any activity that poses an immediate threat to health and safety.
<b>Operations Section Chief</b>	Director of Nursing or next highest ranking Nursing Dept. Manager	Manages tactical operations executed by staff (e.g., continuity of resident services, administration of first aid).
<b>Planning Section Chief</b>	Director of Quality and Education and Lead Resident Care Coordinator along with Staffing Coordinator	Collects and evaluates information to support decision-making and maintains incident documentation, including staffing plans.
<b>Logistics Section Chief</b>	Food Service Director or Admissions Director	Locates, distributes, and stores resources, arranges transportation, and makes alternate shelter arrangements with receiving facilities.
<b>Finance/Admin Section Chief</b>	TMG Finance Dept. Representatives and VP of Administration along with facility Business office, Payroll	Monitors costs related to the incident while providing accounting, procurement, time recording, and cost analyses.

Incident Position	Facility Position Title	Description
	and Human Resource (HR) managers.	

It is important to understand that multiple different individuals based on their knowledge and/or availability can fill each Incident Management Team (IMT) position. The flexibility of the plan allows IMT positions to be filled by individuals currently onsite for the emergency, rather than being dependent upon a small group of specific individuals.

### Command Center

The Incident Commander will designate a space, e.g., facility conference room or other large gathering space, on the facility premises to serve as the centralized location for incident management and coordination activities, also known as the “Command Center.”

The designated location for the Command Center is the **Main Conference Room** and the secondary/back-up location is the **Activities Room**, unless circumstances of the emergency dictate the specification of a different location upon activation of the CEMP, in which case staff will be notified of the change at time of activation.

### Response

The Incident Commander will convene activated Incident Management Team members in the Command Center and assign staff to assess designated areas of the facility to account for residents and identify potential or actual risks, including the following:

- Number of residents injured or affected;
- Status of resident care and support services;
- Extent or impact of the problem (e.g., hazards, life safety concerns);
- Current and projected staffing levels (clinical, support, and supervisory/managerial);
- Status of facility plant, utilities, and environment of care;
- Projected impact on normal facility operations;
- Facility resident occupancy and bed availability;
- Need for protective action; and
- Resource needs.

### Staffing

Based on the outcomes of the assessment, the Planning Section Chief along with the facility **Staffing Coordinator** will develop a staffing plan for the operational period (e.g., remainder of shift). The Operation Section Chief will execute the staffing plan by overseeing staff execution of response activities. The Finance/Administration Section Chief **along with facility payroll and HR managers** will manage the storage and processing of timekeeping and related documentation to track staff hours.

### Recovery

Recovery services focus on the needs of residents and staff and help to restore the facility’s pre-disaster physical, mental, social, and economic conditions.

Recovery services may include coordination with government, non-profit, and private sector organizations to identify community resources and services (e.g., employee assistance programs, state and

federal disaster assistance programs, if eligible). Pre-existing facility- and community- based services and pre-established points of contact are provided in **Table 8**.

**Table 4: Pre-Identified Recovery Services**

Service	Description of Service	Point(s) of Contact
<b>Physical Plant Related Repairs/Reconstruction/Cleanup/Waste removal</b>	Repair or replacement of physical plant components damaged or destroyed during the emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>TMG: Pat McFeely</b></li> </ul>
<b>Trauma/Grief Counseling</b>	Trauma/grief counseling or other necessary social services for residents and/or staff members mentally/emotionally affected by emergency situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>TMG: Amber Wiehe</b></li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Staffing Services</b>	Provision of critical/additional staffing in order to meet care requirements or backfill current staff affected by the emergency situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>TMG: Sue Grigg</b></li> </ul>

Ongoing recovery activities, limited staff resources, as well as the incident's physical and mental health impact on staff members may delay facility staff from returning to normal job duties, responsibilities, and scheduling.

Resuming pre-incident staff scheduling will require a planned transition of staff resources, accounting for the following considerations:

- Priority staffing of critical functions and services (e.g., resident care services, maintenance, dining services).
- Personal staff needs (e.g., restore private residence, care for relatives, attend memorial services, mental/behavioral health services).
- Continued use or release of surge staffing, if activated during incident.

### **Demobilization**

As the incident evolves, the Incident Commander will begin to develop a demobilization plan that includes the following elements:

- Activation of re-entry/repatriation process if evacuation occurred;
- Deactivation of surge staffing;

- Replenishment of emergency resources;

- Reactivation of normal services and operations; and
- Compilation of documentation for recordkeeping purposes.

### Infrastructure Restoration

Once the Incident Commander has directed the transition from incident response operations to demobilization, the facility will focus on restoring normal services and operations to provide continuity of care and preserve the safety and security of residents.

**Table 9** outlines entities responsible for performing infrastructure restoration activities and related contracts/agreements.

**Table 5: Infrastructure Restoration Activities**

Activity	Responsible Entity	Contracts/Agreements
<b>Internal assessment of electrical power.</b>	Environmental Services Manager and/or Pat McFeely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Agreement with Lehigh Construction to coordinate</li> </ul>
<b>Clean-up of facility grounds (e.g., general housekeeping, removing debris and damaged materials).</b>	Environmental Services Manager and/or Pat McFeely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pat McFeely to coordinate outside contractors based on specific needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Internal damage assessments (e.g., structural, environmental, operational).</b>	Pat McFeely and Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pat McFeely to coordinate outside contractors based on specific needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical systems and equipment inspection.</b>	Facility Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Health Systems Services for clinical equipment inspection.</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthen infrastructure for future disasters (if repair/restoration activities are needed).</b>	Facility Administrator with Pat McFeely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ n/a</li> </ul>
<b>Communication and transparency of restoration efforts to staff and residents.</b>	Facility Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ n/a</li> </ul>
<b>Recurring inspection of restored structures.</b>	Facility Administrator and ESM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ n/a</li> </ul>

## Resumption of Full Services

Department Managers will conduct an internal assessment of the status of resident care services and advise the Incident Commander and/or facility leadership on the prioritization and timeline of recovery activities.

Special consideration will be given to services that may require extensive inspection due to safety concerns surrounding equipment/supplies and interruption of utilities support and resident care services that directly impact the resumption of services (e.g., food service, laundry).

Staff, residents, and relatives/responsible parties will be notified of any services or resident care services that are not available, and as possible, provided updates on timeframes for resumption. The Planning Section Chief will develop a phased plan for resumption of pre-incident staff scheduling to help transition the facility from surge staffing back to regular staffing levels.

## Resource Inventory

Full resumption of services involves a timely detailed inventory assessment and inspection of all equipment, devices, and supplies to determine the state of resources post-disaster and identify those that need repair or replacement.

All resources, especially resident care equipment, devices, and supplies, will be assessed for health and safety risks. Questions on resource damage or potential health and safety risks will be directed to qualified service technicians and/or the original manufacturer for additional guidance.

## Information Management

### Critical Facility Records

Critical facility records that require protection and/or transfer during an incident include:

- Resident medical records
- Staff personnel files

The Facility maintains a complete record for each resident in accordance with accepted professional standards and practice. The facility shall protect and safeguard both its medical records and employee personnel records.

The record will be:

- Complete
- Accurately documented
- Readily accessible; and
- Systematically organized

1. Clinical Records are retained for six (6) years from the date of discharge or death or for residents who

are minors, for three (3) years after the resident reaches the age of majority (18).

2. The Facility safeguards clinical record information against loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.
  -
3. Closed and/or thinned Medical records will be stored in a locked room and protected from fire, water damage, insects, and theft.
4. Medical records of permanently discharged residents will be stored separately, labeled alphabetically for easy identification, and protected from fire, water damage, insects, and theft.
5. Medical records of inpatients will be stored at the nurses station and maintained on the desk or chart holder when not in use.
6. The Facility maintains a complete record for each resident in accordance with accepted professional standards and practice.
7. The Facility keeps confidential all information contained in the resident's records, regardless of the form or storage method of the records, except when release is required by:
  - Transfer to another health care institution;
  - Law;
  - Third party payment contract; or
  - The resident
8. The Facility:
  - Permits each resident to inspect his or her records on request; and
  - Provides copies of the record to each resident no later than 48 hours after a written request from a resident or such greater period as State statute may permit, at a reasonable photocopying cost.
9. The clinical record contains:
  - Sufficient information to identify the resident
  - An interdisciplinary record of the resident's assessments
  - The interdisciplinary plan of care and services provided
  - The results of any preadmission screening conducted by the State
  - Progress notes by all practitioners and professional staff caring for the resident including Consultants
  - Reports of all diagnostic tests and results of treatments and procedures ordered for the resident
10. All entries in the Medical Records System are kept current at all times and kept in a place convenient for use by authorized personnel.
11. All reports are entered promptly in the appropriate section in the Medical Record System, dated and signed by the person providing the service.

## Personnel Records

- In compliance with Section 415 of the State Hospital Code, the operator shall maintain “personnel records for each employee, including the administrator, containing all available pre-employment information and an employment record for each payroll period.”
- Access to information contained with-in the employee file is granted as outlined.

### PROCEDURE:

1. The employee personnel file shall include the following:

#### Personnel file:

Employment application  
 Emergency contact form  
 Returned reference checks  
 Completed I-9 form  
 Completed W-4 form  
 License/Certification  
 Record of orientation & Job specific orientation  
 Employee attendance cards  
 Evaluation forms/Competency evaluations  
 Counseling statements  
 Reference requests for information  
 Payroll deduction information  
 Signed job description  
 All miscellaneous information related to employment

#### Medical File:

Pre-employment physical  
 Annual health screen  
 Immunization record  
 Disability/workers compensation information

#### Education File:

In-service Records

2. Current employee files will be kept on site for duration of employment.
3. Terminated employee files are kept on site for two years and off site for six (unless employee has had an exposure incident as defined by OSHA).
4. Only authorized payroll personnel and the Administrator or his/her designee will have access to personnel records.

\*If computer systems are interrupted or non-functional, the facility will utilize paper-based recordkeeping in accordance with internal facility procedures.

### **Tracking Evacuated Residents**

The facility will use the New York State Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters System (“eFINDS”) and the Resident Evacuation Critical Information and Tracking Form to track evacuated residents and ensure resident care is maintained. See Annex K for further details regarding the e FINDS system.

### **Resident Confidentiality**

The facility will ensure resident confidentiality throughout the evacuation process in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule (Privacy Rule), as well as with any other applicable privacy laws. Under the Privacy Rule, covered health care providers are permitted to disclose protected health information to public health authorities authorized by law to collect protected health information to control disease, injury, or disability, as well as to public or private entities authorized by law or charter to assist in disaster relief efforts.

### **Tracking Facility Personnel**

The facility will use the **Kronos clock** system and/or the NHICS Form 252 - Section Personnel Time Sheet to track facility staff.

### **Staff Accountability**

Staff accountability enhances site safety by allowing the facility to track staff locations and assignments during an emergency. Staff accountability procedures will be implemented as soon as the plan is activated.

The facility will utilize the **Kronos system and** the NHICS Form 252 - Section Personnel Time Sheet to track the arrival and departure times of staff. During every operational period (e.g., shift change), Department Managers or designees will conduct an accountability check to ensure all on-site staff are accounted for.

If an individual becomes injured or incapacitated during response operations, Department Managers or designees will notify the Incident Commander to ensure the staff member’s status change is reflected in the NHICS Form 206 - Staff Injury Plan.

### **Non Facility Personnel**

The Incident Commander will coordinate with the facility Medical Director to ensure that appropriate credentialing and verification processes are followed for the utilization of clinical volunteers. Throughout the response, **the Director of Quality/Education and/or the Lead Resident Care Coordinator** will track non-facility personnel providing surge support along with their respective duties and the number of hours worked. NHICS Form 253 - Clinical Volunteer Staff Registration form will be used to document approved/credentialed clinical volunteers, and NHICS Form 252 - Section Personnel Time Sheet will be utilized to track and verify their time. Form 252 will also be used to track non-clinical volunteers as well.

## Communications

As part of CEMP development, the facility conducted a communications assessment to identify existing facility communications systems, tools, and resources that can be utilized during an incident and to determine where additional resources or policies may be needed.

Primary (the best and intended option) and alternate (secondary back-up option) methods of communication are outlined in **Table 9**.

**Table 6: Methods of Communication**

Mechanism	Primary Method of Communication	Alternate Method of Communication
Landline telephone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cell Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text Messages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
News Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Radio Broadcasts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Runners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Facility Website		
Robo Calls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Satellite Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Walkie Talkies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All forms of communication directed to the news media or other members of the public will be coordinated and approved by **the TMG Communications Department**. All internal communication, as well as external communications with stakeholders such as Emergency Services, Police/Fire Officials, DOH, etc. will be coordinated and approved by the Incident Commander.

Upon plan activation, the Incident Commander may designate a staff member as the Public Information Officer to serve as the single point of contact for the development, refinement, and dissemination of internal and external communications.

Key Public Information Officer functions include:

- Develops and establishes mechanisms to rapidly receive and transmit information to local emergency management;
- Develops situational reports/updates for internal audiences (staff and residents) and external audiences;
- Develops coordinated, timely, consistent, and reliable messaging and/or tailor pre-scripted messaging;

- Coordinates, in concert with the IC, direct resident and relative/responsible party outreach, as appropriate; and
- Addresses rumors and misinformation.

### **Staff Communications**

The facility maintains an updated employee roster listing the names of all staff members, including emergency contact information in the facility payroll system as well as in the **TMG Corporate Payroll System**. To prepare for impacts to communication systems, the facility also maintains redundant forms of communication with on-site and off-site staff. The facility will ensure that all staff are familiar with internal communication equipment, policies, and procedures.

### **Staff Reception Area**

Depending on the nature of the incident, the facility may choose to establish a staff reception area (e.g., in a break room or near the time clock) to coordinate and check-in staff members as they arrive to the facility to support incident operations.

The staff reception area also provides a central location where staff can receive job assignments, checklists, situational updates, and briefings each time they report for their shift. Implementing a sign-in/sign-out system at the staff reception area will ensure full staff accountability. The staff reception area also provides the Incident Commander with a central location for staffing updates and inquiries.

### **Resident Communication**

Upon admission, annually, and prior to any recognized threat, the facility will educate residents and responsible parties on the CEMP efforts. Resident communication may include:

- Admission Documents and paperwork
- Website postings
- Resident Council Meetings
- Annual Facility Mailings
- Robo-calls

During and after an incident, the Incident Commander—or Public Information Officer, if activated—will establish a regular location and frequency for delivering information to staff, residents, and on-site responsible parties (e.g., set times throughout the day), recognizing that message accuracy is a key component influencing resident trust in the facility and in perceptions of the response and recovery efforts.

Communication will be adapted, as needed, to meet population-specific needs, including memory-care residents, individuals with vision and/or hearing impairments, and individuals with other access and functional needs.

## External Communications

Under no circumstances will protected health information be released over publicly-accessible communications or media outlets. All communications with external entities shall be in plain language, without the use of codes or ambiguous language.

### TMG

The facility will coordinate all messaging with **The McGuire Group** to ensure external communications are in alignment with corporate policies, procedures, and brand standards. Prior to an incident, the facility will coordinate with **The McGuire Group** to ensure an on-site facility staff member(s) has authorization and approval to disseminate messages.

### Families/Guardians

The facility maintains a list **in Point Click Care** of all identified authorized family member's and guardian's (responsible parties') contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses. Such individuals will receive information about the facility's preparedness efforts upon admission.

During an incident, the facility will notify responsible parties about the incident, status of the resident, and status of the facility by phone and/or other appropriate forms of communication depending on the nature of the incident. Additional updates may be provided on a regular basis to keep residents relatives/responsible parties apprised of the incident and the response.

The initial notification message to residents' primary point of contact (e.g., relative) will include the following information:

- Nature of the incident;
- Status of resident;
- Restrictions on visitation; and
- Estimated duration of protective actions
- Direct contact information for the designated facility liaison assigned to each resident

When incident conditions do not allow the facility to contact residents' relatives/responsible parties in a timely manner, or if primary methods of communication are unavailable, the facility will utilize local or state health officials, the facility website, and/or a recorded outgoing message on voicemail, among other methods, to provide information to families on the status and location of residents.

### Media/General Public

During an emergency, the facility will utilize traditional media (e.g., television, newspaper, radio) and social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) to keep relatives and responsible parties aware of the situation and the facility's response posture.

The Incident Commander—or Public Information Officer, if activated—may assign a staff member to monitor the facility's social media pages and email account to respond to inquiries and address any misinformation.

## Administration

As part of the facility's preparedness efforts, the facility conducts the following tasks:

- Identify and develop roles, responsibilities, and delegations of authority for key decisions and actions including the approval of the CEMP;
- Ensure key processes are documented in the CEMP;
- Coordinate annual CEMP review, including the *Annexes for all hazards*;
- Review and update, if needed, the facility HVA
- Ensure CEMP is in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations; and
- Continued dialogue with community partners such as West Seneca PD and FD for training and educational purposes.

## Finance

The McGuire Group Financial Operations Department has established policies and procedures for the management of facility finances and accounting before, during and after an emergency situation.

## Incident Response

Financial functions during an incident include tracking of personnel time and related costs, initiating contracts, arranging for personnel-related payments and Workers' Compensation, tracking of response and recovery costs, and payment of invoices.

The Finance/Administration Section Chief or designee will account for all direct and indirect incident-related costs from the outset of the response, including:

- Personnel (especially overtime and supplementary staffing)
- Event-related resident care and clinical support activities
- Incident-related resources
- Equipment repair and replacement
- Costs for event-related facility operations
- Vendor services
- Personnel illness, injury, or property damage claims
- Loss of revenue-generating activities
- Cleanup, repair, replacement, and/or rebuild expenses

## Logistics

Logistics functions prior to an incident include identifying and monitoring emergency resource levels, and executing mutual aid agreements, resource service contracts, and memorandums of understanding. These functions will be carried out pre-incident by the Administrator or their designee.

## Response

To assess the facility's logistical needs during an incident, the Logistics Section Chief or designee will complete the following:

- Regularly monitor supply levels and anticipate resource needs during an incident;

- Identify multiple providers of services and resources to have alternate options in case of resource or service shortages; and
- Coordinate with the Finance Section Chief to ensure all resource and service costs are being tracked.
- Restock supplies to pre-incident preparedness levels,
- Coordinate distribution of supplies to service areas.

### Plan Development and Maintenance

To ensure plans, policies, and procedures reflect facility-specific needs and capabilities, the facility will conduct the following activities:

**Table 7: Plans, Policies, and Procedures**

Activity	Led By	Frequency
Review and update the facility's risk assessment.	Facility Administrator	Annually or more frequently with necessary changes.
Review and update contact information for response partners, vendors, and receiving facilities.	Facility Administrator	Annually or as response partners, vendors, and host facilities provide updated information.
Review and update contact information for staff members and residents' emergency contacts.	Payroll manager – staff Medical records managers - residents	Annually or as staff members provide updated information.
Review and update contact information for residents' point(s) of contact (i.e., relatives/responsible parties).	Medical Records Managers and Social Services Department	At admission/readmission, at each Care Plan Meeting, and as residents, relatives, and responsible parties provide updated information.
Post clear and visible facility maps outlining emergency resources at all nurses' stations, staff areas, hallways, and at the front desk.	Environmental Services Manager	Annually
Maintain electronic versions of the CEMP in folders/drives that are accessible by others.	Facility Administrator	Annually
Revise CEMP to address any identified gaps.	Facility Administrator	Upon completion of an exercise or real-world incident.

Activity	Led By	Frequency
Inventory emergency supplies (e.g., potable water, food, resident care supplies, communication devices, batteries, flashlights,	Environmental Services Manager and Food Service Director	Quarterly

### Protective Actions

The Incident Commander may decide to implement protective actions for an entire facility or specific populations within a facility. A brief overview of protective action options is outlined in **Table 11**. For more information, refer to the *NYSDOH Evacuation Plan Template, NYSDOH Healthcare Facility Evacuation Center Metropolitan Area Regional Office Region Facility Guidance Document for the 2018 Coastal Storm Season*, and the *NYSDOH Healthcare Facility Evacuation Center Manual*.

Protective Action	Potential Triggers	Authorization
<b>Defend-in-Place</b> is the ability of a facility to safely retain all residents during an incident-related hazard (e.g., flood, severe weather, wildfire).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unforeseen disaster impacts cause facility to shelter residents in order to achieve protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be initiated by the Incident Commander <b>ONLY</b> in the absence of a mandatory evacuation order.</li> <li>Does not required NYSDOH approval.</li> </ul>
<b>Shelter-in-Place</b> is keeping a small number of residents in their present location when the risks of relocation or evacuation exceed the risks of remaining in current location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disaster forecast predicts low impact on facility.</li> <li>Facility is structurally sound to withstand current conditions.</li> <li>Interruptions to clinical services would cause significant risk to resident health and safety.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can only be done for coastal storms.</li> <li>Requires <u>pre-approval</u> from NYSDOH prior to each hurricane season and <u>re-authorization</u> at time of the incident.</li> </ul>
<b>Internal Relocation</b> is the movement of residents away from threat within a facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to consolidate staffing resources.</li> <li>Consolidation of mass care operations (e.g., clinical services, dining).</li> <li>Minor flooding.</li> <li>Structural damage.</li> <li>Internal emergency (e.g., fire).</li> <li>Temperature presents life safety issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined by facility based on safety factors.</li> <li>If this protective action is selected, the NYSDOH Regional Office must be notified.</li> </ul>

Protective Action	Potential Triggers	Authorization
<p><b>Evacuation</b> is the movement of residents to an external location (e.g., a receiving facility) due to actual or anticipated unsafe conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mandatory or advised order from authorities.</li> <li>▪ Predicted hazard impact threatens facility capacity to provide safe and secure shelter conditions.</li> <li>▪ Structural damage.</li> <li>▪ Emergency and standby power systems failure resulting in facility inability to maintain suitable temperature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to the <i>NYSDOH Evacuation Plan Template</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lockdown</b> is a temporary sheltering technique used to limit exposure of building occupants to an imminent hazard or threat. When “locking down,” building occupants will shelter inside a room and prevent access from the outside.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presence of an active threat (e.g., active shooter, bomb threat, suspicious package).</li> <li>▪ Direction from law enforcement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determined by facility based on the notification of an active threat on or near the facility premises.</li> </ul>

### Resource Management

Additionally, the facility maintains an inventory of emergency resources and corresponding suppliers/vendors, for supplies that would be needed under all hazards, including:

- Generators
- Fuel for generators and vehicles
- Food and water for a minimum of 72 hours for staff and residents
- Disposable dining supplies and food preparation equipment and supplies
- Medical and over-the-counter pharmaceutical supplies
- Personal protective equipment (PPE), as determined by the specific needs for each hazard
- Emergency lighting, cooling, heating, and flashlights/lanterns
- Resident movement equipment (e.g., stair chairs, bed sleds, lifts)
- Durable medical equipment (e.g., walkers, wheelchairs, oxygen, beds)
- Linens, gowns, privacy plans
- Housekeeping supplies, disinfectants, detergents
- Resident specific supplies (e.g., identification, medical risk information, medical records, physician orders, Medication Administration Records, Treatment Administration Records, Contact Information Sheet, last 72 hours of labs, x-rays, nurses’ notes, psychiatric notes, doctor’s

progress notes, Activities of Daily Living (ADL) notes, most recent History and Physical (H&P), clothing, footwear, and hygiene supplies)

- Administrative supplies
- Critical tools and maintenance/physical plant related equipment (hand/power tools for emergency repairs, air compressor, snow removal equipment, extension cords, dollies, gas powered water pumps, voltage detector, batteries (all sizes), pry bars, sledge hammer)
- Cell phones, chargers and two way radios
- Facility satellite phone

The facility’s resource inventory will be updated annually, or as needed to ensure that adequate resource levels are maintained, and supplier/vendor contact information is current.

**Resource Distribution and Replenishment**

During an incident, the Incident Commander—or Logistics Section Chief, if activated—will release emergency resources to support operations. The Incident Commander—or Operations Section Chief, if activated—will ensure the provision of subsistence needs.

- The Incident Commander—or Planning Section Chief, if activated—will track the status of resources used during the incident. When defined resource replenishment thresholds are met, the Planning Section Chief will coordinate with appropriate staff to replenish resources, including:
  - Procurement from alternate or nontraditional vendors
  - Procurement from communities outside the affected region
  - Resource substitution
  - Resource sharing arrangements with mutual aid partners
  - Request for external stockpile support from healthcare associations, local emergency management. **Resource replenishment from TMG Corporate stockpile**

**Resource Sharing**

In the event of a large-scale or regional emergency, the facility may need to share resources with mutual aid partners or healthcare facilities in the community, contiguous geographic area, or across a larger region of the state and contiguous states as indicated.

**Emergency Staffing**

If off-duty personnel are needed to support incident operations, the facility will conduct the following activities in accordance with facility-specific employee agreements:

**Table 8: Off-Duty Personnel Mobilization Checklist**

Off-Duty Personnel Mobilization Checklist	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The senior most on-site facility official will confirm, with Administrator, that mobilization of off-duty personnel is permissible (e.g., overtime pay).

<input type="checkbox"/>	Once approved, Department Managers will be notified of the need to mobilize off-duty personnel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Off-duty personnel will be notified of the request and provided with instructions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Time and location to report</li> <li>▪ Assigned duties</li> <li>▪ Safety information</li> <li>▪ Resources to support self-sufficiency (e.g., water, flashlight)</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Once mobilized, off-duty staff will report for duty as directed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If staff are not needed immediately, staff will be requested to remain available by phone.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To mobilize additional off-duty staff, the facility may need to provide additional staff support services (e.g., childcare, respite care, pet care). These services help to incentivize staff to remain on site during the incident, but also need to be carefully managed (e.g., reduce liability, manage expectations).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinate to provide transportation services (facility vehicles, Uber, taxi services, etc.) to staff members willing to report, but do not have a means of transportation.

### Other Job Functions

In accordance with employment contracts, collective bargaining agreements, etc., an employee may be called upon to aid with work outside of job-prescribed duties, work in departments or carry out functions other than those normally assigned, and/or work hours in excess of (or different from) their normal schedule. Unless temporarily permitted by an Executive Order issued by the Governor under section 29-a of Executive Law, employees may not be asked to function out-of-scope of certified or licensed job responsibilities.

The Incident Management Team will request periodic updates on staffing levels (available and assigned). In addition to deploying clinical staff as needed for resident care activities, non-medical assignments from the labor pool may include:

- Security augmentation
- Runners / messengers
- Switchboard support
- Clerical or ancillary support
- Transportation/drivers
- Resident information, monitoring, and one-on-ones, as needed
- Preparing and/or serving meals, snacks, and hydration for residents, staff, visitors, and volunteers
- Cleaning and disinfecting areas, as needed
- Laundry services
- Recreational or entertainment activities
- Providing information, escorts, assistance, or other services to relatives and visitors
- Other tasks or assignments as needed within their skill set, training, and licensure/certification.

In accordance with employment contracts, collective bargaining agreements, etc., and at the determination of the Incident Commander, all or some staff members may be changed to 12-hour emergency shifts to maximize staffing. These shifts may be scheduled as around regular work hours, in six or 12-hour shifts, or as needed to meet facility emergency objectives.

### **Surge Staffing**

If surge staffing is required—for example, staff has become overwhelmed—it may be necessary to implement surge staffing (e.g., **TMG Float Pool**, staffing agencies).

The facility may coordinate with pre-established credentialed volunteers included in the facility roster or credentialed volunteers associated with programs such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and ServNY.

The facility will utilize emergency staffing as needed and as identified and allowed under executive orders issued during a given hazard/emergency.

### **Emergency Power Systems**

In the event of an electrical power disruption causing partial or complete loss of the facility's primary power source, the facility is responsible for providing alternate sources of energy for staff and residents (e.g., generator).

In accordance with the facility's plans, policies, and procedures, the facility will ensure provision of the following subsistence needs through the activation, operation, and maintenance of permanently attached onsite generators:

- Maintain temperatures to protect resident health and safety and for the safe and sanitary storage of provisions;
- Emergency lighting;
- Fire detection and extinguishing, and alarm and life safety systems; and
- Sewage and waste disposal.

Onsite generators and associated equipment and supplies are located, installed, inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) codes and standards.

In extreme circumstances, incident-related damages may limit generator and fuel source accessibility, operability, or render them completely inoperable. In these instances, an urgent or planned evacuation will be considered if a replacement generator cannot be obtained in a timely manner.

## Training and Exercises

To empower facility personnel and external stakeholders (e.g., emergency personnel) to implement plans, policies, and procedures during an incident, the facility will conduct the following training activities:

**Table 9: Training**

Activity	Led By	Frequency
Conduct comprehensive orientation to familiarize new staff members with the CEMP, including PEP specific plans, the facility layout, and emergency resources.	HR Manager and Director of Quality and Education	Orientation held on the first day of employment.
Incorporate into annual educational update training schedule to ensure that all staff are trained on the use of the CEMP, including PEP specific plans, and core preparedness concepts.	Director of Quality and Education	Annually and as needed
Maintain records of staff completion of training.	Director of Quality and Education	Ongoing
Ensure that residents are aware appropriately of the CEMP, including PEP specific plans, including what to expect of the facility before, during, and after an incident.	Facility Administrator	Upon admission and minimally on an annual basis  Repeat briefly at time of incident.
Identify specific training requirements for individuals serving in Incident Management Team positions.	Facility Administrator	Ongoing
Determine appropriate exercises and drills (based on HVA) to properly simulate emergency situations.	Facility Administrator	Ongoing

To validate plans, policies, procedures, and trainings, the facility will conduct the following exercise activities:

**Table 10: Exercises**

Activity	Led By	Frequency
Conduct, at minimum, one operations-based exercise (e.g., full-scale or functional exercise). The WNY Mutual Aid drill is completed	Facility Administrator	Annually

Activity	Led By	Frequency
annually, and will satisfy this requirement.		
Conduct, at minimum, one discussion-based exercise (e.g., tabletop exercise).	Facility Administrator	Annually

### Documentation

In alignment with industry best practices for emergency preparedness, the facility will maintain documentation and evidence of course completion through the use of sign in sheets, NHICS Form 201 – Incident Briefing and Operational Log and After Action Reports. These forms will be used for all disaster drills as well as real time emergency situations.

### After Action Reports

The facility will develop After Action Reports to document lessons learned from tabletop and full-scale exercises and real-world emergencies and to demonstrate that the facility has incorporated any necessary improvements or corrective actions.

After Action Reports will document what was supposed to happen; what occurred; what went well; what the facility can do differently or improve upon; and corrective action/improvement plan and associated timelines.

### Infectious Disease/Pandemic Emergency

The circumstances of infectious disease emergencies, including ones that rise to the level of a pandemic, vary due to multiple factors, including type of biological agent, scale of exposure, mode of transmission and intentionality. Infectious disease emergencies can include outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics. The facility must plan effective strategies for responding to all types of infectious diseases, including those that rise to the higher level of pandemic.

The following Infectious Disease/Pandemic Emergency Checklist outlines the hazard-specific preparedness, response, and recovery activities the facility should plan for that are unique to an incident involving infectious disease as well as those incidents that rise to the occasion of a pandemic emergency. The facility should indicate for each checklist item, how they plan to address that task.

The Local Health Department (LHD) of each New York State county, maintains prevention agenda priorities compiled from community health assessments. The checklist items noted in this Annex include the identified LHD priorities and focus areas. Nursing homes should use this information in conjunction with an internal risk assessment to create their plan and to set priorities, policies and procedures.

A summary of the key components of the PEP requirements for pandemic situations is as follows:

- o development of a Communication Plan,
- o development of protection plans against infection for staff, residents, and families, including the maintenance of a 2-month (60 day) supply of infection control personal protective equipment and supplies (including consideration of space for storage), and
- o A plan for preserving a resident's place in and/or being readmitted to a residential health care facility or alternate care site if such resident is hospitalized, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Finally, any appendices and documents, such as regulations, executive orders, guidance, lists, contracts, etc. that the facility creates that pertain to the tasks in this Annex, and/or refers to in this Annex, should be attached to the corresponding Annex K of the CEMP Toolkit rather than attached here, so that this Annex remains a succinct plan of action.

Infectious Disease/Pandemic Emergency Checklist	
Preparedness Tasks for <u>all Infectious Disease Events</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p>Provide staff education on infectious diseases (e.g., reporting requirements (see Annex K of the CEMP toolkit), exposure risks, symptoms, prevention, and infection control, correct use of personal protective equipment, regulations, including 10 NYCRR 415.3(i)(3)(iii), 415.19, and 415.26(i); 42 CFR 483.15(e) and 42 CFR § 483.80), and Federal and State guidance/requirements</p> <p>Facility utilizes multiple different presentation methods for infectious disease education such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face to face presentation</li> <li>• Video education</li> <li>• Webinars</li> <li>• Hands on training and observation</li> <li>• 1 on 1 teaching and mentoring</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p>Develop/Review/Revise and Enforce existing infection prevention, control, and reporting policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The TMG Best Practices Committee</b> is charged with the management of all infection control related policies and procedures. All policies are reviewed on a regular basis and updated to reflect current industry standards, best practices and all regulatory requirements.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	<p>Conduct routine/ongoing, infectious disease surveillance that is adequate to identify background rates of infectious diseases and detect significant increases above those rates. This will allow for immediate identification when rates increase above these usual baseline levels.</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	<p>Develop/Review/Revise plan for staff testing/laboratory services</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Review and assure that there is, adequate facility staff access to communicable disease reporting tools and other outbreak specific reporting requirements on the Health Commerce System (e.g.,</p>

Required	Nosocomial Outbreak Reporting Application (NORA), HERDS surveys See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	Develop/Review/Revise internal policies and procedures, to stock up on medications, environmental cleaning agents, and personal protective equipment as necessary. (Include facility's medical director, Director of Nursing, Infection Control Practitioner, safety officer, human resource director, local and state public health authorities, and others as appropriate in the process) See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	Develop/Review/Revise administrative controls (e.g., visitor policies, employee absentee plans, staff wellness/symptoms monitoring, human resource issues for employee leave). See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	Develop/Review/Revise environmental controls (e.g., areas for contaminated waste) See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	Develop/Review/Revise vendor supply plan for re-supply of food, water, medications, other supplies, and sanitizing agents. The facility has executed agreements with local vendors to supply the following critical items in an emergency situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Foods – food and water</li> <li>• Pharmerica Pharmacy – medication</li> <li>• Medline – medical supplies and equipment</li> <li>• Chudy Paper Co. – disinfection and cleaning supplies</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	Develop/Review/Revise facility plan to ensure that residents are isolated/cohorted and or transferred based on their infection status in accordance with applicable NYSDOH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	Develop plans for cohorting, including using of a part of a unit, dedicated floor, or wing in the facility or a group of rooms at the end of the unit, and discontinuing any sharing of a bathroom with residents outside the cohort. See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	Develop/Review/Revise a plan to ensure social distancing measures can be put into place where indicated See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	Develop/Review/Revise a plan to recover/return to normal operations when, and as specified by, State and CDC guidance at the time of each specific infectious disease or pandemic event e.g., regarding how, when, which activities /procedures /restrictions may be eliminated, restored and the timing of when those changes may be executed. See Annex K – reopening plan.
<b>Additional Preparedness Planning Tasks for <u>Pandemic Events</u></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements,</i></b> Develop/Review/Revise a Pandemic Communication Plan

Required	that includes all required elements of the PEP See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i></b> , Development/Review/Revise plans for protection of staff, residents and families against infection that includes all required elements of the PEP. See Annex K
<b>Response Tasks for <u>all Infectious Disease Events</u>:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	The facility will implement the following procedures to obtain and maintain current guidance, signage, advisories from the NYSDOH and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on disease-specific response actions, e.g., including management of residents and staff suspected or confirmed to have disease: See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	The facility will assure it meets all reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed communicable diseases as mandated under the New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR 2.10 Part 2), as well as by 10 NYCRR 415.19. (see Annex K of the CEMP toolkit for reporting requirements). See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	The facility will assure it meets all reporting requirements of the Health Commerce System, e.g. HERDS survey reporting See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	The Infection Control Practitioner will clearly post signs for cough etiquette, hand washing, and other hygiene measures in high visibility areas. Consider providing hand sanitizer and face/nose masks, if practical.
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	The facility will implement the following procedures to limit exposure between infected and non-infected persons and consider segregation of ill persons, in accordance with any applicable NYSDOH and CDC guidance, as well as with facility infection control and prevention program policies See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	The facility will implement the following procedures to ensure that as much as is possible, separate staffing is provided to care for each infection status cohort, including surge staffing strategies: See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	The facility will conduct cleaning/decontamination in response to the infectious disease in accordance with any applicable NYSDOH, EPA and CDC guidance, as well as with facility policy for cleaning and disinfecting of isolation rooms.
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	The facility will implement the following procedures to provide residents, relatives, and friends with education about the disease and the facility's response strategy at a level appropriate to their interests and need for information. See Annex K
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	The facility will contact all staff, vendors, other relevant stakeholders on the facility's policies and procedures related to minimizing exposure risks to residents This facility regularly communicates its policies regarding exposure risks to all critical vendors i.e. medical suppliers, food suppliers, emergency building related contractors, providers, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Subject to any superseding New York State Executive Orders and/or NYSDOH guidance that may otherwise temporarily prohibit visitors, the facility will advise visitors to limit visits to reduce

Required	<p>exposure risk to residents and staff.</p> <p>If necessary, and in accordance with applicable New York State Executive Orders and/or NYSDOH guidance, the facility will implement the following procedures to close the facility to new admissions, limit visitors when there are confirmed cases in the community and/or to screen all permitted visitors for signs of infection:</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<b>Additional Response Tasks for <u>Pandemic Events</u>:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended	<p>Ensure staff are using PPE properly (appropriate fit, don/doff, appropriate choice of PPE per procedures)</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p><b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i></b>, the facility will follow the following procedures to post a copy of the facility’s PEP, in a form acceptable to the commissioner, on the facility’s public website, and make available immediately upon request:</p> <p>The facility will have the properly formatted PEP posted on the organization’s website no later than 9/15/20.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p><b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i></b>, the facility will utilize the following methods to update authorized family members and guardians of infected residents (i.e., those infected with a pandemic-related infection) at least once per day and upon a change in a resident's condition:</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p><b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i></b>, the facility will implement the following procedures/methods to ensure that all residents and authorized families and guardians are updated at least once a week on the number of pandemic-related infections and deaths at the facility, including residents with a pandemic-related infection who pass away for reasons other than such infection:</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p><b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i></b>, the facility will implement the following mechanisms to provide all residents with no cost daily access to remote videoconference or equivalent communication methods with family members and guardians:</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p><b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i></b>, the facility will implement the following process/procedures to assure hospitalized residents will be admitted or readmitted to such residential health care facility or alternate care site after treatment, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to 10 NYCRR 415.3(i)(3)(iii), 415.19, and 415.26(i); and 42 CFR 483.15(e):</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p><b><i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i></b>, the facility will implement the following process to preserve a resident's place in a residential health care facility if such resident is hospitalized, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to 18 NYCRR 505.9(d)(6) and 42 CFR 483.15(e):</p> <p>See Annex K</p>

<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<i>In accordance with PEP requirements</i> , the facility will implement the following planned procedures to maintain or contract to have at least a two-month (60-day) supply of personal protective equipment (including consideration of space for storage) <u>or any superseding</u>
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	<p><u>requirements under New York State Executive Orders and/or NYSDOH regulations governing PPE supply requirements executed during a specific disease outbreak or pandemic.</u> As a minimum, all types of PPE found to be necessary in the COVID pandemic should be included in the 60-day stockpile.</p> <p>This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N95 respirators</li> <li>- Face shield</li> <li>- Eye protection</li> <li>- Gowns/isolation gowns</li> <li>- Gloves</li> <li>- Masks</li> <li>- Sanitizer and disinfectants (meeting EPA Guidance current at the time of the pandemic)</li> </ul> <p>See Annex K</p>
<b>Recovery for <u>all Infectious Disease Events</u></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p>The facility will maintain review of, and implement procedures provided in NYSDOH and CDC recovery guidance that is issued at the time of each specific infectious disease or pandemic event, regarding how, when, which activities/procedures/restrictions may be eliminated, restored and the timing of when those changes may be executed.</p> <p>See Annex K</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<p>The facility will communicate any relevant activities regarding recovery/return to normal operations, with staff, families/guardians and other relevant stakeholders</p> <p>See Annex K</p>

## Facility Overview

The facility overview provides an immediate reference sheet about each facility (or individual buildings within a facility's campus) for use when communicating with external parties during an emergency (e.g., law enforcement, fire department, emergency management officials).

<b>LOCATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Name of Facility</b>	Seneca Health Care Center
<b>Address</b>	2987 Seneca Street West Seneca NY 14224
<b>Cross Streets</b>	Seneca Street and Center Street
<b>Telephone</b>	716-828-0500
<b>Fax</b>	716-828-1377
<b>Email</b>	n/a
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.mcguiregroup.com">www.mcguiregroup.com</a>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	
<b>Construction Type</b>	Type 2 (111)(NFPA 220)
<b>Year Building Constructed</b>	1974
<b>Number of Floors (above/below grade)</b>	1
<b>Square Footage</b>	+/-75,056 square feet



CAPACITY AND STAFFING	
Non-Traditional Surge Space	Resident lounges and dining areas
Number of Facility-Owned Vehicles (including accessible spots/seats)	1 pick up truck
UTILITY AND SERVICE PROVIDERS	
Electric Provider	NYSEG
Local Water Provider	Erie County Water Authority
Telephone Provider	Verizon
Internet Service Provider	Spectrum
Generator Services	Penn Power
Propane	n/a
Plumbing	John W Danforth Company
Elevator	n/a
HVAC Equipment	Tri R Mechanical Services
Fire Equipment/Sprinklers	Great Lakes Building Systems

**See form NHICS FORM 258 | FACILITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY for updated contact numbers for above service providers.**

## Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

### HVA Tools

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires healthcare facilities to conduct annual facility-specific risk assessments to identify and assess potential hazards and their impacts. HVAs are used to estimate the hazards (and associated risks) that are most likely to occur and/or may affect a facility's ability to maintain operations and services. The results of the analysis can be used to prioritize planning, mitigation, response, and recovery projects and initiatives.

### HVA Process

The following outlines the process and recommendations for conducting a facility-specific HVA:

#### *Convene Staff with Facility-Specific Knowledge*

Conducting an HVA requires an in-depth knowledge of facility preparedness and response capabilities. In

addition, understanding the capabilities of response partners is another important piece of completing an HVA. As a result, staff possessing this knowledge should be involved in the HVA process, including:

- Facility Senior Leader
- Lead Clinical Staff

- Head of Administration/Finance
- Communications Staff
- Environmental Services/Plant Operations Leadership

Completing the HVA can be done by a single knowledgeable staff member or as a collaborative process with multiple staff members. For example, multiple staff members can complete an individual HVA, then they can be compared to validate each assessment and a consensus can be reached using the variety of assessments.

### *Identify Facility-Specific Hazards*

In order to complete an HVA, staff must know the hazards which might affect their facility. The list of hazards can be developed through a variety of means, including:

- Historical knowledge of hazards
- Subjective predictions of hazards
- Using predetermined hazards in HVA tools
- Using local emergency plans to determine hazards (also known as a “community-based assessment”). Examples of these plans, which can be obtained from your Local Office of Emergency Management, include:
  - Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Emergency Operations Plans
  - Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

### *Assess Hazards*

The risk each hazard poses to the facility is determined through a variety of factors. The table below presents each factor and the considerations to make when evaluating them.

**Table 3: HVA Considerations**

<b>Hazard Factor</b>	<b>Considerations</b>
<b>Probability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current local and regional plans</li> <li>▪ Manufacturer/vendor statistics</li> <li>▪ Subjective evaluations or best estimate</li> </ul>
<b>Human Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for staff, resident, or visitor injury or death</li> <li>▪ Emotional or psychological impact</li> <li>▪ Local cultural norms</li> </ul>

Hazard Factor	Considerations
<b>Property Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cost to replace</li> <li>▪ Cost to set up temporary replacement</li> <li>▪ Cost to repair</li> <li>▪ Time to recover</li> </ul>
<b>Business Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Business interruption</li> <li>▪ Staff unable to report to work</li> <li>▪ Violation of contractual agreements, regulatory standards</li> <li>▪ Interruption of critical supplies</li> <li>▪ Reputation and public image</li> <li>▪ Financial impact or burden</li> </ul>
<b>Preparedness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Status of current plans</li> <li>▪ Staff training completion status</li> <li>▪ Availability of alternate sources for critical resources</li> </ul>
<b>Internal Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emergency resource levels</li> <li>▪ Durability/longevity of resources (without replenishment)</li> <li>▪ Internal resources ability to withstand disasters</li> <li>▪ Availability of backup systems</li> </ul>
<b>External Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Types of agreements with community agencies</li> <li>▪ Relationship with local and state agencies</li> <li>▪ Relationship with local healthcare facilities</li> <li>▪ Relationship with community volunteers</li> <li>▪ Vendor pre-incident response plans and contracts</li> </ul>

### **Facility Profile and HVA**

#### **Facility Profile and Building Features**

Single Story Type II Non Combustible

59,257

75,056 sq. feet

Natural Gas

Heat; 277 volts electric baseboard heaters inside resident rooms.

Natural gas fed boilers with roof top air handlers for hallways.

2 - 500 gallon hot water tanks on site

Cooling; Roof top A/C units that feed common hallways

Pharmacy

**Resident Population\***

Licensed for 160 beds

Subacute and orthopedic rehabilitation and recovery, hip, knee, pulmonary, post-surgical and wound care therapies, physical and occupational therapy, pain management, intravenous antibiotics, electrical stimulation for wound healing, bariatric care

\* see facility assessment for full description of resident population.

**Generator**

45kw Onan Generator; Natural Gas located outside facility

Tested / Inspected weekly

Powers red outlets, every other light in common hallway,

resident electric baseboard heaters, refrigerator, freezer in kitchen

Powers only certain rooftop air handling units.

Will not power A/C when on emergency power

**Stop Over Point**

West Seneca West High School

**Evacuation Site**

Sister Facilities located within the McGuire group

**HAZARD AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL**  
**TECHNOLOGIC EVENTS**

EVENT	PROBABILITY	SEVERITY = (MAGNITUDE - MITIGATION)						RISK
		HUMAN IMPACT	PROPERTY IMPACT	BUSINESS IMPACT	PREPARED-NESS	INTERNAL RESPONSE	EXTERNAL RESPONSE	
	<i>Likelihood this will occur</i>	<i>Possibility of death or injury</i>	<i>Physical losses and damages</i>	<i>Interruption of services</i>	<i>Preplanning</i>	<i>Time, effectiveness, resources</i>	<i>Community/ Mutual Aid staff and supplies</i>	<i>Relative threat*</i>
SCORE	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 - 100%
Electrical Failure	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	<b>28%</b>
Generator Failure	1	3	2	3	2	1	1	<b>22%</b>
Transportation Failure	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	<b>22%</b>
Water Shortage	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	<b>33%</b>
Communications Failure	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	<b>19%</b>
Information Systems Failure	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	<b>30%</b>
Fire, Internal	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	<b>67%</b>
Flood, Internal	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	<b>39%</b>
Hazmat Exposure, Internal	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	<b>19%</b>
Supply Shortage	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	<b>13%</b>
Natural Gas Failure	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	<b>20%</b>
<b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>10%</b>

**RISK = PROBABILITY \* SEVERITY**

**0.10      0.37      0.27**

\*Threat increases with percentage.

**HAZARD AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL**  
**NATURALLY OCCURRING EVENTS**

EVENT	PROBABILITY	SEVERITY = (MAGNITUDE - MITIGATION)						RISK
		HUMAN IMPACT	PROPERTY IMPACT	BUSINESS IMPACT	PREPAREDNESS/DRILLS	INTERNAL RESPONSE	EXTERNAL RESPONSE	
	<i>Likelihood this will occur</i>	<i>Possibility of death or injury</i>	<i>Physical losses and damages</i>	<i>Interruption of services</i>	<i>Preplanning</i>	<i>Time, effectiveness, resources</i>	<i>Community/Mutual Aid staff and supplies</i>	<i>Relative threat*</i>
SCORE	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 - 100%
Tornado	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	52%
Severe Thunderstorm	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	33%
Snow Fall	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	33%
Blizzard	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	39%
Ice Storm	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	39%
Earthquake	1	2	3	3	2	1	1	22%
Heat/Humidity	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	39%
Drought	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	22%
Flood, External	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	13%
Wild Fire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11%
Landslide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Hurricane	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11%
Subsidence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Pandemic	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	56%
<b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>18%</b>
		<b>RISK = PROBABILITY * SEVERITY</b>						
		<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.33</b>				

*\*Threat increases with percentage.*

**HAZARD AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL**  
**HUMAN RELATED EVENTS**

EVENT	PROBABILITY	SEVERITY = (MAGNITUDE - MITIGATION)						RISK
		HUMAN IMPACT	PROPERTY IMPACT	BUSINESS IMPACT	PREPAREDNESS	INTERNAL RESPONSE	EXTERNAL RESPONSE	
	<i>Likelihood this will occur</i>	<i>Possibility of death or injury</i>	<i>Physical losses and damages</i>	<i>Interruption of services</i>	<i>Preplanning</i>	<i>Time, effectiveness, resources</i>	<i>Community/ Mutual Aid staff and supplies</i>	<i>Relative threat*</i>
<b>SCORE</b>	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 - 100%
Flu / Facilitywide Illness	3	3	0	2	1	1	1	44%
Terrorism, Biological	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	24%
Infection i.e.COVID-19	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	56%
Hostage Situation, Person w/Weapon, Active Shooter	3	3	1	3	2	3	2	78%
Civil Disturbance	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	56%
Labor Action	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	37%
Missing Resident	3	3	0	2	2	1	1	50%
Bomb Threat	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	41%
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>35%</b>

**RISK = PROBABILITY \* SEVERITY**

0.35

0.63

0.56

*\*Threat increases with percentage.*

## HAZARD AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

### EVENTS INVOLVING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

EVENT	PROBABILITY	SEVERITY = (MAGNITUDE - MITIGATION)						RISK
		HUMAN IMPACT	PROPERTY IMPACT	BUSINESS IMPACT	PREPARED-NESS	INTERNAL RESPONSE	EXTERNAL RESPONSE	
	<i>Likelihood this will occur</i>	<i>Possibility of death or injury</i>	<i>Physical losses and damages</i>	<i>Interruption of services</i>	<i>Preplanning</i>	<i>Time, effectiveness, resources</i>	<i>Community/ Mutual Aid staff and supplies</i>	<i>Relative threat*</i>
SCORE	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = Low 2 = Moderate 3 = High	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 = N/A 1 = High 2 = Moderate 3 = Low or none	0 - 100%
Mass Casualty Hazmat Incident ( <i>From historic events at your LTC with &gt;= 5 victims</i> )	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	20%
Small Casualty Hazmat Incident ( <i>From historic events at your LTC with &lt; 5 victims</i> )	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	19%
Chemical Exposure	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	33%
Terrorism, Chemical	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	24%
Radiologic Exposure, External	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	24%
Terrorism, Radiologic	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	24%
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>1.89</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>11%</b>

**RISK = PROBABILITY \* SEVERITY**

**0.11      0.26      0.43**

*\*Threat increases with percentage.*

Infection Risk Assessment																
EVENT	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE (How likely is this to occur)				RISK LEVEL OF FAILURE (What would be the most likely)				POTENTIAL CHANGE IN CARE (Will treatment/care be needed for resident/staff)				PREPAREDNESS (Are processes in place and can they work)			RISK LEVEL (score of 8 or > are considered highest priority for improvement efforts)
	Score	High 3	Med 2	Low 1	None 0	Life Threatening 3	Permanent Harm 2	Temp Harm 1	None 0	High 3	Med 2	Low 1	None 0	Poor 3	Fair 2	
							External Factors (Community, Demographics)									
Risk of TB in the community Identify other risk factors in the community based on geographic location (coast, mountains etc.)																
							Internal Factors (Facility Related)									
<b>Facility Associated Infection(s)</b>																
Symptomatic urinary tract infection (SUTI)			x					x								x
Influenza like illness			x					x								x
Pneumonia			x					x								x
LRTI (bronchitis)			x					x								x
Cellulitis/soft tissue infection			x					x								x
Scabies				x				x								x
Gastroenteritis			x					x								x
Norovirus			x					x								x
Clostridium difficile				x				x								x
Conjunctivitis			x					x								x
<b>Antibiotic Stewardship</b>																
Lack of leadership support for antibiotic stewardship									x							x
Inadequate written policies for stewardship									x							x
Unable to determine antibiotic usage report from pharmacy									x							x
Unable to retrieve report summarizing antibiotic resistance patterns (antibiogram)									x							x
<b>Exposure Related</b>																
Lack of accessible hand sanitizer			x						x							x
Non-compliance with hand hygiene				x					x							x
No written plan to manage outbreaks									x							x
Inadequate compliance with Standard Precautions				x												x
Inadequate compliance with Contact Precautions				x												x
Inadequate compliance with Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette				x												x
Inadequate compliance with injection safety				x												x
Inadequate utilization of engineering controls to remove exposure from work activity				x												x
<b>Healthcare personnel</b>																
Lack of compliance with influenza immunization				x												x
Lack of notification or employee with illness/disease				x												x
Non-compliance with annual TB screening				x												x
Non compliance with mandatory education				x												x
<b>Resident/Family</b>																
Lack of TB screening for resident at time of admission				x												x
Lack of compliance with influenza immunization				x												x
Lack of compliance with pneumococcal vaccine				x												x
Lack of resident compliance with personal hygiene				x												x
Lack of family compliance with facility policies				x												x
Inadequate resident/family education				x												x
<b>Environment</b>																
Inadequate cleaning and disinfection of resident room				x												x
Use of non-approved products for environmental cleaning																x
Inadequate cleaning/disinfection of resident common areas				xx												x
Inadequate cleaning of areas with visible contamination				x												x
<b>Medical Devices, Supplies and Equipment</b>																
Improper storage of medical supplies and equipment				x												x
Improper use, cleaning/disinfection of blood glucose monitoring equipment				x												x
Improper storage and/or transport of linen				x												x
Date Prepared:																

03/24/20

Any incident large or small can warrant the activation of the CEMP and the processes contained within. This checklist describes the activities that should take place whenever the CEMP is activated and the position that is responsible. Additional facility specific processes can be added into the checklist.

The facility CEMP uses an Incident Command System (ICS) framework as the operational component. All protocols are based around the standard ICS operational procedures due to the flexible and scalable nature of these protocols. Please see the ICS framework below:

## **ICS Background**

### **NIMS**

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together seamlessly and manage incidents involving all threats and hazards—regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity—in order to reduce loss of life, property and harm to the environment. The NIMS is the essential foundation to the [National Preparedness System \(NPS\)](#) and provides the template for the management of incidents and emergency operations.

The purpose of the NIMS is to provide a common approach for managing incidents. The concepts provide for a flexible but standardized set of incident management practices with emphasis on common principles, a consistent approach to operational structures and supporting mechanisms, and an integrated approach to resource management.

Incidents typically begin and end locally, and they are managed daily at the lowest possible geographical, organizational, and jurisdictional level. There are other instances where success depends on the involvement of multiple jurisdictions, levels of government, functional agencies, and/or emergency-responder disciplines. These instances necessitate effective and efficient coordination across this broad spectrum of organizations and activities. By using NIMS, facilities are part of a comprehensive national approach that improves the effectiveness of emergency management and response personnel across the full spectrum of potential threats and hazards (including natural hazards, terrorist activities, and other human-caused disasters) regardless of size or complexity.

### **Incident Command Center (ICS)**

NIMS is designed to prepare for, prevent, and manage response to emergency and disaster situations, and to coordinate emergency response disaster responders. An Incident Command System (ICS) is one of the most common tools utilized by NIMS during an emergency situation. The ICS is a personnel management structure, utilized by NIMS through which disaster response is controlled.

An Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized on-scene incident management concept designed specifically to allow responders to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of any single incident or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in domestic incident management activities. It is used for a broad spectrum of emergencies, from small to complex incidents, both natural and manmade, including acts of catastrophic terrorism. **ICS is organized around five major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration.**

An ICS enables integrated communication and planning by establishing a manageable span of control. An ICS divides an emergency response into five manageable functions essential for emergency response operations: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. The figure below shows a typical ICS structure.



A disaster scenario can affect a nursing home at any time. It is, therefore, important for all facilities to be prepared to handle a variety of different types and severity levels of emergencies. An ICS allows a facility to have the flexibility to adapt to any type of emergency, and gives personnel the ability to manage operations during that emergency regardless of the type or severity level. The Nursing Home Incident Command System (NHICS) was developed specifically to address the many unique challenges faced by nursing home personnel during a potential disaster situation. The NHICS utilizes the nationally accepted NIMS framework to address situation/issues that arise during an emergency at a Nursing Home. The goals in developing a Nursing Home Incident Command System (NHICS) include the following:

- Customization of a well-developed and tested incident management system for use by non-traditional health care partners
- Incorporation of assets and resources of the nursing home community into all-hazard emergency management
- Development of nursing-home-specific planning and response tools for emergency management
- Introduction to and utilization of incident action planning for nursing homes
- Development and implementation guidance for use of an incident management system that promotes collaboration and interoperability

NHICS is designed to help avoid the following issues related to mismanagement of emergent situations:

- Inadequate communication because of conflicting terminology or inefficient or improper use of technology
- Lack of a standardized management structure that would allow integration, command and control, and workload efficiency
- Lack of personnel accountability
- Lack of a systematic planning process

NHICS is designed to meet these challenges by:

- Being effectual in managing all emergency, routine, or planned events, of any size or type, and by establishing a clear chain of command
- Allowing personnel from different agencies or departments to be integrated into a common structure that can effectively address issues and delegate responsibilities

- Provide needed logistical and administrative support to operational personnel
- Ensure key functions are covered and eliminate duplication

The fundamental features of the ICS include:

### **1. Common terminology/clear text**

The use of common terminology provides for a clear message and sharing of information. It avoids the use of codes, slang, or discipline- specific nomenclature that may not be clearly understood by all planning and response partners. A common terminology helps to define the common organizational structure: as an example, the identification of sections, section chiefs, and branch directors. Another key benefit of common terminology is the ability to share resources in the response, such as personnel to oversee incident management or operations. By using consistent terminology, the opportunity to develop memorandums or agreements to share personnel is enhanced.

### **2. Modular organization**

The ICS structure begins from the top and expands as needed by the event. Positions within the structure are activated as dictated by the incident size or complexity. As complexity increases, the ICS organization expands. Only those functions or positions necessary for an incident are activated.

### **3. Management by objectives**

The Incident Commander initiates the response and sets the overall command and control objectives. The mission of the response is defined for all members of the response team through a clear understanding of the organization's policy and direction. This includes an assessment of the incident from the current situation to projected impacts. To meet the overall mission, or command objectives, individual sections will establish incident objectives as well as the strategies to achieve these objectives through clear tactics. Because emergency response is not "business as usual," clearly defined objectives will allow staff to focus on the roles in the response, avoiding duplication of efforts or omission of critical actions.

### **4. Incident Action Planning**

The development of objectives is documented in the Incident Action Plan (IAP). A written plan provides personnel with direction for taking actions based on the objectives identified in the IAP and reflects the overall strategy for incident management while providing measurable strategic operations for the operational period. To ease this process, ICS forms are designed and developed for nursing homes and are contained within the NHICS guidebook.

### **5. Manageable span of control**

A key concept in ICS is maintaining a span of control that is both effective and manageable. Because emergency events are not business as usual situations, the span of control for operations that are not routine should be kept at an effective number. Within ICS, the optimum span of control is one supervisor to five reporting personnel. If the number falls outside these ratios, the incident management team should be expanded or consolidated.

### **6. Pre-designated incident locations/facilities**

In the planning stages, planners should determine the location of their response and coordination sites, including the coordination and command sites. Within ICS, sites are identified for both scene and regional coordination, such as staging areas, command posts, triage locations and emergency operations centers. Planners within the nursing home or long-term care facility should identify sites for ICS management, staging areas for receipt of supplies and equipment, evacuation sites if the infrastructure is unsafe, and so on.

## 7. Resource management

Resources used in the response are categorized as *tactical* and *support*. Tactical resources include personnel and major equipment available or potentially available for use in the response. Support resources are all other resources to support the incident, including food, equipment, communications, supplies, vehicles, etc. It is critical in the response to understand the availability and status of both tactical and support resources. It is important to have a clear picture of current and needed resources when working within the medical mutual aid system in the jurisdiction of state, allowing those providing the response support to provide the necessary assets through a clear understanding of current capability.

## 8. Integrated communications

There are three elements within integrated communications: modes, plans and networks. The modes include the hardware systems that transfer information, such as radios, facility owned cell phones, and pagers. Plans should be developed in advance on how to best use the available modes through a clear and concise communication policy and plans (for example, determining who can use radios and what information should be communicated). The networks identified within the jurisdiction will determine the procedures and processes for transferring information internally and externally.

## 9. Common command structure

The ICS provides for a common command structure that identifies core principles for an efficient chain of command. *Unity of Command* dictates that each person within the response structure reports to only one supervisor. A *single command* exists when a single agency or discipline responds to an event; for example, the fire service at a warehouse fire is commanded by a fire captain or chief. When multiple agencies or disciplines are working together at a scene, there is a *unified command* structure that allows for coordination in response actions. For nursing homes, this may occur when the facility is the scene of the incident, such as a fire. The nursing home administration and the fire command work together in a unified command structure.

## Incident Management Team

### Incident Management Functions

It is important to understand that ICS is a management system-not an organizational chart. It is predicated on a number of principal tenets:

- Every incident or event requires that certain management functions be performed. The problem encountered is evaluated, a plan to remedy the problem is identified and implemented, and the necessary resources assigned. Management by Objectives (MBO) is thus a critically important component to the successful implementation of an incident command system and involves the inclusion of both control and operational period objectives.

- The ICS organization frequently does not correlate to the daily administrative structure of the agency or nursing home. This practice is purposeful and done to reduce role and title confusion. Those positions activated in the response come together to serve as the **Incident Management Team (IMT)**, whose purpose is to respond to and recover from the event through coordinated objectives and tactics.
- Position titles within the IMT should remain unchanged; this promotes interoperability between response partners, allowing for sharing of personnel resources among organizations.
- The IMT structure consists of the command, general, branch and unit staff, with sections clearly identified by the roles and responsibilities they carry out.
- The **Incident Commander** is the only position always activated in an incident regardless of its nature. In addition to Command, which sets the objectives, devises strategies and priorities, and maintains overall responsibility for managing the incident, there are four other management functions.
- **Operations** conducts the tactical operations (e.g., resident services, clean-up) to carry out the plan using defined objectives and directing all needed resources.
- **Planning** collects and evaluates information for decision support, maintains resource status information, prepares documents such as the Incident Action Plan, and maintains documentation for incident reports.
- **Logistics** provides support, resources, and other essential services to meet the operational objectives set by Incident Commander.
- **Finance** monitors costs related to the incident while providing accounting, procurement, time recording, and cost analyses.

In traditional Incident Command, there are five sections: Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance. The Incident Commander Position is the only one that is always activated in an emergency and in small scale incidents, the Incident Commander may be able to accomplish all five management functions without the activation of additional positions. On larger incidents effective management may require that the Incident Commander establish one or more of the four other functions and appoint Section Chiefs with the overall goal to maintain the span of control and meet the needs of the facility based on the available resources. An important feature of the incident command system is its scalability. NHICS positions are assigned to personnel as indicated by the situation, and may be activated or deactivated as the incident unfolds and the needs change or become more clearly defined.

### **Building the IMT**

The development of the IMT is based on the essential elements of ICS. The system is scalable and flexible, and uses a modular organization to respond to the event. As previously stated, **the Incident Commander is the only position that is always activated.** Activating additional positions is considered when the event duration increases, when situational information provides insight on the possible impact to the facility and when the span of control is exceeded. Management tools have been developed to help determine the need for activating additional positions; these tools (Job Action Sheets, Forms, and Incident Response Guides) should be customized by individual facilities based on their staffing and possible response actions.

\*\*Position titles within the IMT define the role and the tasks assigned to that role. Titles identify the hierarchy within the chain of command. Job Action Sheets break down the roles and responsibilities of each position title.

**These titles include:**

**Commander:** there is only one commander position during the incident response, this being the Incident Commander.

**Officers:** officers are part of the command section. In NHICS, the officer roles are the Liaison Officer, Public Information Officer, Medical Director/Specialist and Safety Officer. Each of these positions report directly to the Incident Commander.

**Chiefs:** oversight for the section is provided by a Section Chief.

**Directors:** branches may be activated under the sections to maintain the chain of command and provide specific duties and actions as identified by the position title. For example, within the Operations Section, there is a Resident Services Branch and an Infrastructure Branch, with oversight provided by Directors.

**Leaders:** units may be activated within a branch when there is a specialized but complex set of duties that relate to a specific assignment. The person assuming responsibility for a Unit is a Leader.

*\*\*Not all of the ICS positions need to be active in each incident. The ICS structure is meant to expand and contract as the scope of the incident requires. For small-scale incidents, only the incident commander may be assigned. Command of an incident would likely transfer to the senior on-scene officer of the responding public agency when emergency services arrive on the scene. Command transfers back to the facility when the public agency depart.*

## **NHICS Incident Management Team:**

### **Command**

The **Incident Commander** is the only position that is always activated. The Incident Commander activates and directs the response through the development of command objectives to direct the response. In many cases, the Incident Commander may be the only position that is activated. A critical responsibility of the Incident Commander is the decision to evacuate the facility. Based on the incident hazard that causes evacuation, this can be a difficult decision and is based on overall situational information, the projected impact, the threat to life and property, and the capability for safe evacuation.

The Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for all aspects of the response, including developing incident objectives and managing all incident operations.

Unless specifically assigned to another member of the Command or General Staffs, these responsibilities remain with the IC. Some of the more complex responsibilities include:

- Assess the situation
- Establish immediate priorities especially related to the safety of residents, emergency responders and any other individuals affected by the incident in question.
- In charge of the organization's on-scene response
- Stabilize the incident by ensuring life safety and managing resources efficiently and cost effectively.
- Determine the incident objectives and strategy; identify information needed or required by others; ensure planning/strategy meetings are held and attend as needed
- Determine incident objectives and strategy to achieve those objectives.
- Establish and monitor incident organization.
- Approve the implementation of the written (or verbal) Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- Ensure adequate health and safety measures are in place at all times.

- Maintain command until public agencies arrive and assume command or when relieved at start of next operational period
- Order warning of persons at risk or potentially at risk to take appropriate protective actions
- Notify or verify internal teams, departments, public agencies, regulators, contractors and suppliers have been notified
- Appoint others to incident command positions as needed
- Brief staff on current organization and activities; assign tasks; schedule planning meeting
- Coordinate activities with the EOC; identify priorities and activities; provide impact assessment for business continuity, crisis communications and management
- Review requests for resources; confirm who has authority to approve procurement; approve all requests for resources as required
- Provide information to and coordinate with crisis communications or media relations team
- Terminate the response and demobilize resources when the situation has been stabilized

### **Safety Officer**

The **Safety Officer** within the Command Staff is responsible for overall safety of the response actions, modifying or suspending operations if the conditions are unsafe to continue. Example: the facility may be forced to evacuate all or part of the building due to an imminent roof collapse. The Safety Officer should evaluate the site where residents are moved to, ensuring that this location as well as the route to the new location is free of hazards.

The Safety Officer's role is also to develop and recommend measures to the IC for assuring resident/personnel health and safety and to assess and/or anticipate hazardous and unsafe situations. The Safety Officer also develops the Site Safety Plan, reviews the Incident Action Plan for safety implications, and provides timely, complete, specific, and accurate assessment of hazards and required controls.

Key Responsibilities:

- Identify and assess hazardous situations; prevent accidents
- Prepare safety plan; ensure messages are communicated
- Stop unsafe acts; correct unsafe conditions

### **Liaison Officer**

The **Liaison Officer** serves as the link for the facility with external partners, and to serve as the point of contact for assisting and coordinating activities between the IC and various outside agencies and groups. This position provides information to external response agencies such as NYDOH, emergency management officials, first responders, and other agencies as identified by the facility during planning and response.

Key Responsibilities:

- Point of contact with outside agencies and companies
- Monitors operations to identify inter-organizational problems

**Information Officer's**

The **Information Officer's** role is to develop and release information about the incident to the news media, incident personnel, and other appropriate agencies and organizations.

Key Responsibilities:

- Notify spokespersons and Crisis Communications Team
- Develop information for use in media briefings
- Obtain IC's and management approval for all news releases
- Conduct periodic media briefings
- Arrange for tours, interviews and or briefings
- Monitor and forward useful information to the media

### **Medical Director**

The **Medical Director** is the person with specific expertise in clinical areas such as infectious disease, trauma management, and medical ethics who may be asked to provide the Incident Command staff with needed advice and coordination assistance. This role may be filled by persons outside of the facility but ideally will be filled by the facility's Medical Director who has familiarity with the resident population, and the disaster plan for the facility. The **Medical Director** reports to the Incident Commander; however, in actual event, this specialist may work directly with operations personnel providing advice or guidance in the clinical response activities.

### **NHICS Incident Management Team: Operations**

Many incidents that occur involve altered conditions of care for the residents. There could be environmental changes such as loss of power and/or poor air quality that will require emergency measures to protect residents from harm. There also could be injured or ill residents and staff who will require first aid and/or an environment that needs immediate cleaning or repair. These critical actions become the responsibility of the Operations Section who will be responsible for managing the tactical objectives outlined by the Incident Commander.

The Operations Section is responsible for managing tactical operations at the incident site directed toward reducing the immediate hazard, saving lives and property, establishing situation control, and restoring normal conditions. Incidents can include acts of terrorism, severe winter weather, wild land and urban fires, floods, hazardous material spills, nuclear accidents, aircraft accidents, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, war-related disasters, public health and medical emergencies, and other incidents requiring an emergency response.

Because of its functional unit management structure, the ICS is applicable across a spectrum of incidents differing in size, scope, and complexity. The types of agencies that could be included in the Operations Section include fire, law enforcement, public health, public works, and emergency services, working together as a unit or in combinations, depending on the situation. Many incidents may involve private individuals, companies, or nongovernmental organizations, some of which may be fully trained and qualified to participate as partners in the Operations Section.

Incident operations can be organized and executed in many ways. The specific method selected will depend on the type of incident, agencies involved, and objectives and strategies of the incident management effort. The ICS offers extensive flexibility in determining the appropriate approach using the factors described above.

### Operations Key Responsibilities:

- Manage all tactical operations during the incident
- Assist in the development of the operations portion of the Incident Action Plan
- Ensure safe tactical operations for all responders (in conjunction with any assigned Safety Officer)
- Request additional resources to support tactical operations
- Expedite appropriate changes in the operations portion of the Incident Action Plan
- Maintain close communication with the Incident Commander

The **Operations Section** staff are responsible for all operations directly applicable to the primary mission of the incident response. Operations staff typically consists of nine positions. Oversight of this Section is by a Chief. Additional positions include a Resident Services Branch Director, and an Infrastructure Branch Director. Under these two branches, the unit positions of Nursing, Psychosocial, Admit/Transfer & Discharge, Dietary, Environmental, and Physical Plant/Security may be activated depending on the situation.

The **Operations Section Chief** oversees all tactical operations carried out within the response and implements the IAP. He/she will activate the additional positions based on the needs of the event, as well as the availability of qualified personnel to fill the positions. If a position is needed but there is insufficient staffing to fill that position, the functions of that position are assumed by the highest position activated in that section.

The **Resident Services Branch Director** is responsible for the continuation of resident services as well as the provision of care to residents, staff and visitors who are injured or become ill due to the incident. The **Resident Services Branch Director** may assign staff to ensure continuation of resident services, including rehabilitation and clinical services as provided by the facility. The Resident Services Branch Director must also ensure that residents are accounted for and tracked, and that services needed to sustain operations are identified and provided.

The **Infrastructure Branch Director** is responsible for the continuation of those services that support the care in the facility including dietary, housekeeping, power, lighting, water, sewage, and other essential services. The **Infrastructure Branch Director** may also be required to assess the structural soundness of the facility in the event of an assault on the building such as from an earthquake, tornado, or fire, and then advise the Operations Section Chief on the capacity of the structure to sustain occupancy.

The **Physical Plant/Security Unit Leader** under the Infrastructure Branch is responsible for ensuring that the nursing home and the surrounding grounds are secure during the response. This may include traffic control as well as lock-down of the facility due to security threats, structural damage or infectious disease outbreaks. Planning should address the use of facility personnel to perform this role but also the integration of local law enforcement and/or private security firms if needed.

Within these established positions in the IMT, staff in day-to-day positions may continue their tasks and actions, reporting their status to the applicable branches. For example: the facility housekeeper(s) may report observed damages after a flood to the Infrastructure Branch Director. Those personnel who provide resident services, such as physical or occupational therapy, may report their status to the Resident Services Branch Director.

## NHICS Incident Management Team: Planning

When sufficient staff are available, and when the impact of the event is sustained, the **Planning Section** or “thinkers” may be activated. The role of the Planning Section within the NHICS Incident Management Team is to gather and validate information from both internal and external sources. The **Planning Section** must also gather, analyze, and track situational response data, providing up-to-date and accurate information regarding residents, staff, supplies, and equipment and other resources, and projecting the ability to sustain operations based on the current and future status. This section consists of three positions: The Planning Section Chief, Situation Unit Leader and Documentation Unit Leader.

The Planning Section is responsible for collecting, evaluating, and disseminating tactical information pertaining to the incident. This section maintains information and intelligence on the current and forecasted situation, as well as the status of resources assigned to the incident. The Planning Section prepares and documents IAPs and incident maps and gathers and disseminates information and intelligence critical to the incident. The Planning Section may include a number of technical specialists to assist in evaluating the situation and forecasting requirements for additional personnel and equipment.

### Planning Section Key Responsibilities:

- Conduct and facilitate planning meetings
- Supervise preparation of the Incident Action Plan
- Determine need for technical experts from within the company or outside as well as specialized resources to support the incident
- Coordinate with business continuity and senior management teams
- Assemble information on alternative strategies and plans
- Assess current and potential impacts on people, property, environment
- Compile and display incident status information

The **Planning Section Chief** oversees the section and determines the need for activation of the **Situation Unit** and **Documentation Unit**. As outlined in NIMS, the Planning Section will “collect, evaluate, and disseminate incident situation information and intelligence to Incident Command.” They will also be responsible for preparing status reports, displaying various types of information, and developing the Incident Action Plan (IAP). The effectiveness of the Planning Section has a direct impact on the availability of information needed for the critical, strategic decision-making done by the Incident Commander and the other General Staff positions.

The **Situation Unit Leader** will be responsible for writing and maintaining incident updates based on internal and external events, including those related to patient tracking and bed tracking. The status of supplies and equipment, both those available and in use for the response will be tracked by the Situation Unit Leader.

Multiple types of information should be documented during an incident. This information may originate from the incident scene, in one of the nursing home’s operating service areas, or from the (facility) Command Center. The Planning Section will take the lead in coordinating documentation efforts. The role of the **Documentation Unit Leader** is to work with other members of the incident

management team to document the incident. They also are responsible for archiving the documents created during the response.

Multiple methods of documentation will likely be used during an incident. Written documentation will be the primary method of information recording. Each Incident Management Team position is tasked with maintaining their own log of issues, actions, and outcomes.

### **NHICS Incident Management Team: Logistics**

The Logistics Section is considered the “getters” for the response. Logistics provides the necessary services and support to sustain operations during the emergency response. This section identifies and inventories current resources including supplies, equipment, and personnel, and obtains those additional items needed to support operations.

The Logistics Section meets all support needs for the incident, including ordering resources through appropriate procurement authorities from off-incident locations. It also provides facilities, transportation, supplies, equipment maintenance and fueling, food service, communications, and medical services for incident personnel. The Logistics Section is led by a Section Chief, who may also have a deputy. Having a deputy is encouraged when all designated units are established at an incident site. When the incident is very large or requires a number of facilities with large numbers of equipment, the Logistics Section can be divided into two branches.

The Logistics Team consists of eight positions including the Chief, the Service and Support Branch Directors, and the Communication/Hardware, IT/IS, Supply, Staffing/Scheduling, and Transportation Units. This section’s responsibilities include personnel/manpower, supplies, equipment, pharmaceuticals, and vehicles. The Logistics Section works closely with the Operations Section, responding to supply requests and their acquisition based on the needs of the response. During pre-event planning, a staging area (or areas) should be established and identified in the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The staging area will be a central location, large enough to allow for the collection of personnel, vehicles, and equipment/supplies needed in the response. The Logistics Section Chief, with the assistance of the Support Branch Director provides oversight and direction at the staging area(s), maintaining an inventory of those supplies.

The **Logistics Section Chief** oversees the provision of services and support to sustain current operations and the operational response to the incident.

There are two branches within the **Logistics Section**: Service and Support.

The **Service Branch** will ensure the preservation of those essential services; of communications and information technology. Under the Service Branch Director, the Communications and IT/IS Unit Leaders may be activated to assist with this function. The Logistics Section **Support Branch** organizes and maintains the facility’s supplies, equipment, transportation and labor pool in support of the residents, staff, and staff dependents in accordance with facility policy. The Support Branch must also account for those resources used and requested for operations. Under the Support Branch Director, the Supply, Staffing/Scheduling, and Transportation Unit Leaders may be activated to assist with this function.

Pre-incident planning should identify critical items that may be needed for various responses based on annual completion of a Hazard Vulnerability Analysis. The on-hand inventory documentation should be kept current and readily available for use when needed.

During a response, needed items that are not “in-house” may be obtained from off the shelf stores or through standard ordering procedures, emergency procurement contracts, mutual aid agreements

between facilities, corporate support, and/or requests to the local Emergency Operations Center – Emergency Support Function #8-Health and Medica

#### Key Logistics Section Responsibilities:

- Provides resources to stabilize the incident and support personnel, systems and equipment:
- Workspace or facilities for incident management staff
- Media briefing center
- Transportation
- Communications equipment
- Food, water, shelter and medical care
- Ensures Incident Command Post and other facilities have been established as needed
- Assesses communications needs and facilitates communications between teams/personnel/agencies
- Attends planning meetings; provides input to Incident Action Plan
- Provides updates on resources (availability, response time, deployment)
- Estimates and procures resources for the next operational period

#### **NHICS Incident Management Team: Finance/Administration**

When there is a specific need for financial, reimbursement (individual and agency or department), and/or administrative services to support incident management activities, a Finance/Administration Section is established. Under the ICS, not all agencies will require such assistance. In large, complex scenarios involving significant funding originating from multiple sources, the Finance/Administrative Section is an essential part of the ICS. The Finance/Administration Section must also account for lost revenue associated with the response and recovery and ensure thorough investigation and documentation of incident-related claims.

The **Finance/Administration Section Chief** oversees the costs and expenditures incurred by the response actions, including the purchasing of supplies and equipment. In addition to monitoring multiple sources of funds, the Section Chief must track and report to the IC the financial “burn rate” as the incident progresses. This allows the IC to forecast the need for additional funds before operations are affected negatively. The Section Chief may also need to monitor cost expenditures to ensure that statutory rules that apply are met. Close coordination with the Planning Section and Logistics Section is also essential so that operational records can be reconciled with financial documents. The Finance/Administration Section Chief will determine, given current and anticipated future requirements, the need for establishing specific subordinate units. In some of the functional areas (e.g., procurement), an actual unit need not be established if it would consist of only one person. In such a case, a procurement technical specialist would be assigned in the Planning Section instead. Because of the specialized nature of finance functions, the Section Chief should come from the agency that has the greatest requirement for this support. Additionally, the Finance/Administration Section Chief must assist in the screening of volunteers who will be assigned to duties during the response.

Finance/Administration Team Key Responsibilities:

- Manages all financial aspects of the incident
- Provides financial and cost analysis information as requested
- Create accounts for claims and costs; coordinates with Logistics
- Tracks worker time and costs for materials and supplies
- Documents claims for damage, liability and injuries
- Notifies risk management/insurance to initiate claims reporting
- Provides incurred and forecasted costs at planning meetings
- Provides oversight of financial expenditures, new leases, contracts and assistance agreements to comply with corporate governance

The **Time Unit Leader** ensures that all staff and volunteers who are utilized in the response efforts account for their hours and assists with the screening of volunteers or newly recruited staff if possible before they are assigned to any resident areas.

The **Procurement/Claims/Costs Unit Leader** works closely with the Logistics Section to obtain those supplies and equipment needed for the response. The costs of items procured in the response will be documented, with projections for ongoing costs that may be incurred in the response and recovery phases. The position is also responsible for coordinating all claims and compensations related to response and recovery efforts. These may include insurance and government claims related to the response as well as compensation claims related to employee, visitor, or resident injury or illness.

### Position Crosswalk

To further explain the roles within the IMT, suggested facility positions that may fill the IMT roles have been identified. The identification of traditional facility positions to fill the IMT roles provides a source of discussion in the planning stage. A key step in this process is to review the roles and responsibilities of the position as identified in the Job Action Sheet, and identify the most skilled person to fill the role.

The following chart is a list of suggested persons to fill the IMT roles.

ICS POSITION	NURSING HOME POSITION
<b>Incident Commander</b>	<b>Administrator/TMG VP</b>
Medical Director/Specialist	Medical Director
Public Information Officer	Marketing Coordinator
Liaison Officer	Administrator
Safety Officer	ESM
<b>Operations Section Chief</b>	<b>Director of Nursing</b>
Resident Services Branch Director	Asst. Director of Nursing (LTC)
Nursing Unit Leader	Unit Coordinator
Psychosocial Unit Leader	Social Worker

Admit/Transfer & Discharge Unit Leader	Admissions Coordinator/RCC Lead
Infrastructure Branch Director	Maintenance/Housekeeping supervisor
Dietary Unit Leader	FSD
Environmental Unit	Maintenance/Housekeeping Supervisor
Physical Plant/Security Unit Leader	Maintenance
<b>Planning Section Chief</b>	<b>Administrator</b>
Situation Unit Leader	Medical Records Staff
Documentation Unit Leader	Medical Records Staff
<b>Logistics Section Chief</b>	<b>Director of Quality</b>
Service Branch Director	ESM/TMG IT
Communication Hardware Unit Leader	Maintenance /TMG IT
IT/IS Unit Leader	TMG IT
Support Branch Director	Asst Director of Nursing (Sub Acute)
Supply Unit Leader	Housekeeping Sup or Central Supply
Staffing/Scheduling Unit Leader	Staffing Coordinator
Transportation Unit Leader	Activity Director
<b>Finance/Admin Section Chief</b>	<b>VP Finance</b>
Time Unit Leader	Payroll/TMG
Procurement /Costs / Claims Unit Leader	ESM/TMG AP

### Establishing an Area Command

An Area Command is established when the complexity of the incident and incident management span-of-control considerations so dictate. Generally, the Incident Commander for the emergency makes the decision to establish an Area Command.

The purpose of an Area Command is either to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by a separate ICS organization or to oversee the management of a very large or complex incident that has multiple incident management teams engaged.

This type of command is generally used when there are a number of incidents in the same area and of the same type, such as two or more HAZMAT spills or fires. These are usually the kinds of incidents that may compete for the same resources. When incidents are of different types and/or do not have similar resource demands, they are usually handled as separate incidents or are coordinated through an EOC.

Area Commands are particularly relevant to public health emergencies, given that these events are typically not site specific, not immediately identifiable, geographically dispersed, and evolve over time ranging from days to weeks. Such events as these, as well as acts of biological, chemical, radiological, and nuclear terrorism, call for a coordinated intergovernmental, private-sector, and nongovernmental organization response, with large-scale coordination typically conducted at a higher jurisdictional level.

### Incident Action Planning and Incident Command System Forms

In developing the response to the event, certain steps should be taken to guide the response. These steps are part of the Incident Action Planning. The incident planning process is a core concept of ICS and takes place regardless of the incident size or complexity. This planning involves six essential steps:

**1. Understanding the nursing home's policy and direction**

The command and general staff, in developing the response actions to undertake, must first understand the facility policy and purpose.

For example, the nursing home may be active in community medical disaster planning and have developed plans to provide first aid services during the emergency. This policy should be established in written policy and be clearly understood by the Incident Management Team as an established response action.

## **2. Assessing the situation**

Situational intelligence is critical in developing the response actions, providing insight to the impact, and projecting the span of the event. Nursing homes should have access to established mechanisms and systems within the community (city, county, regional, or state) that will provide and verify situational information. Another component in assessing the situation is determining the potential impact on the facility itself, based on current resident and employee status, the status of the building(s) and grounds, and the ability to maintain resident services.

## **3. Establishing incident objectives**

The Incident Commander sets the overall command objectives for the response. He/she sets the direction for the response actions, setting the mission of the nursing home in the emergency response.

For example, in an incident involving power failure, ensuring the safety of the residents and employees is the highest priority. The Incident Response Guides provide examples of objectives that apply to the response based on the cause. These may be used in the Incident Action Planning process.

## **4. Determining appropriate strategies to achieve the objectives**

After the Incident Commander has set the command objectives, the section chiefs then determine the appropriate strategies to undertake in the response. This provides a plan of action for each section, clearly identifying actions and duties while ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts. Objectives should be developed that provide clear direction and clearly define what is to be done. For example, assessing the building for structural damage after an earthquake is a clear objective to be carried out.

## **5. Giving tactical direction and ensuring that it is followed**

Tactical directions provide the responders with the actions to be taken, and identifies the resources needed to complete the task. For example, assessing the facility after a blizzard will require the necessary tools such as protective equipment, checklists to document the assessment, etc. Actions undertaken should be assessed for their effectiveness, with the objectives and directions adapted if they are unsuccessful.

## **6. Providing necessary back-up**

When tactical direction is initiated, support is needed to meet the objectives. This may include revision of the actions taken in the response, the assignment of additional resources (personnel, supplies and equipment) as well as the revision of tactical objectives.

### **Management by Objectives: Example**

The foundation of healthcare incident action planning is Management by Objectives (MBO). The Incident Commander sets the overall command objectives for the response and recovery. Through this process, staff within operations, logistics, and planning are given a clear direction to follow and will then develop strategies for their respective sections. Consider the following example that demonstrates the application of command objectives and strategies. A community-wide infectious disease outbreak impacts the nursing home through illness of residents and staff. The outbreak must be contained, and local health authorities advise restrictions on visitations to nursing homes, hospitals, long-term care, and residential facilities. At the nursing home, the emergency operations plan has been activated, as over 50% of the residents and almost 35% of the facility staff are ill. The Incident Commander identifies the command objectives for this response as:

1. Ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and staff
2. Continuation of essential resident services and provision of medical care as needed

For the Operations Section (those who provide care to residents and maintain the facility infrastructure) the strategies and tactics that meet the command objectives include:

1. Command Objective: Ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and staff
  - a. Strategy: Restriction of visitors to residents
    - i. Tactic: Notify residents and family members of restricted visitation to prevent possible spread of infectious disease
    - ii. Tactic: Post signage of restricted visitation
    - iii. Tactic: Consolidate all entry into facility to one portal to control visitors
2. Command Objective: Continuation of essential resident services and provision of medical care as needed
  - a. Strategy: Cancellation of nonessential services in order to utilize available staff for essential resident services
    - i. Tactic: Identify nonessential services that can be cancelled or postponed; reassign staff to essential services or to an on-site labor pool

For the Logistics Section, whose role is to provide the necessary supplies and equipment to support Operations, the strategies and tactics may include:

1. Command Objective: Ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and staff a.  
Strategy: Provide infection control supplies as needed and

Directed.

- i. Tactic: Inventory all available infection control supplies, including gloves and masks, currently available

### **Documenting the Objectives, Strategies and Tactics: The Incident Action Plan (IAP)**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed ICS forms that can be utilized in Incident Action Planning. The forms provide a documentation tool that directs the response and archives the objectives, strategies, and tactics. It is also used as a method for documenting the personnel, supplies, and equipment used in response and recovery phases.

### **Key information on the NHICS forms**

***Incident Name:*** The event that triggers the activation of the emergency operations plan and the incident management team structure is given a specific name that is then recorded on all ICS forms. If the event affects only the nursing home, the Incident Commander will identify the name. For example, a fire at the facility may be named Nursing Home Fire. If the incident occurs outside of the nursing home, the lead agency or local emergency management will name the incident. This name will be widely communicated, and allow for all response and recovery actions to be tracked under one name. For example, if there is a wildfire that triggers the evacuation of the nursing home, the incident name will come from the lead agency (the fire service) for the response. This incident name should be used on all ICS forms produced by the nursing home, providing clear documentation of the evacuation in response to the external event.

***Operational Period:*** This refers to the amount of time it is projected to take to meet the strategies and tactics identified in the response. The operational period does not need to correspond to shift hours. The operational period may be revised to a longer or shorter period based on the incident, the response actions, and the evaluation of efforts undertaken. There is one Incident Commander for the operational period. Turnover of incident management team positions and new strategies and tactics signals a new operational period. It is the role of the Incident Commander to set the operational period.

***Recording of time and date:*** The time used on all forms is based on a 24-hour clock. For example, 10 o'clock in the morning is documented at 1000 while

10 o'clock at night is documented at 2200. Standardizing everyone's watches and clocks at the outset of an operational period will help to insure reporting time accuracy.

Dates are expressed in a year / month / day format. For example, June 18, 2009 is written as 2009-06-18.

***Names and Titles:*** Position titles have been identified for NHICS that are consistent with standard incident command system terminology. These include Commander, Section Chiefs, Branch Directors, and Unit Leaders. This allows for positions to be shared with other organizations, and also enhance communication among response partners through the use of common terminology.

In documenting the response on the NHICS forms, the names of persons filling the IMT positions should include the full name.

**Prepared by:** Each form identifies the position within the Incident Management Team responsible for completing the form. This task is also reflected on the Job Action Sheet for each position.

**Facility Name:** The name of the nursing home or long-term care facility that is utilizing the form is documented. This allows for information to be shared with other response partners or with other facilities that may be part of a larger consortium.

**Approved by:** On some forms, the completion of the form for accuracy and applicability may be reviewed by another position within the IMT. This will be noted on each form, with space provided for signatory approval.

**Purpose and Copies:** In the footer section of each form there is guidance provided on the purpose of each form and the routing or distribution of each form. Nursing homes may elect in the planning stage to review the routing of forms, providing customization in the distribution.

**Legibility:** As with all documentation in healthcare, writing should be legible. Beyond guiding the response, ICS forms may be used in recovery, review of the response, and financial reimbursement. The documentation should be legible, providing a clear message for all response partners internal and external of the nursing home.

## **NHICS Incident Action Planning Forms**

For use in Incident Action Planning by nursing homes, 18 individual forms have been created. Each form has a specific purpose in both directing and documenting the response.

### NHICS Form 201: Incident Briefing and Operational Log

The Incident Briefing contains the initial overview of the event, including the cause, the initial impact, the actions taken, and other critical information. This form is completed by the Incident Commander and should provide a clear and succinct overview of the situation to incident management team members. Then, this form can be used for the Command and General staff as their Operational Log to document assignments and key actions taken in their section/branch during the event. Each person with a Command or General staff assignment should complete an operational log, documenting their assignment, actions taken, critical information received, and other key information and decisions as determined by the individual. This critical chronology of information serves multiple functions: as a record of the work performed during the operational period; as a personnel log to assist with reimbursement; as a guide for the after-action review; and as a resource tool for personnel assuming the same position in follow-up operational periods.

### NHICS Form 202: Incident Objectives

As previously noted, the Incident Commander sets the overall command objectives for the response. These are documented on NHICS form 202. The incident name and operational period, as first identified on NHICS form 201, are repeated on NHICS form 202. Weather conditions are documented on this form, in consideration of any operations that may be impacted by inclement weather, such as heat, rain, extreme cold, etc. As an example of the importance of weather conditions, consider a nursing home evacuation due to power failure. If there is extremely hot weather predicted for the next 12 hours, it may not be safe to move residents to an external location to await transportation. The Logistics Section may be required to provide shelter from the heat if residents must wait outside for prolonged

periods.

General safety information is also reflected on NHICS form 202. In the example above, safety information may include use of tents or overhead shelters for staging of residents, directions to drink water and watch for signs of heat exposure to residents and staff.

A separate section is available to indicate any attachments to the form; some examples are contained but there is opportunity here for customization. For example, if a local health alert is issued in response to an infectious disease outbreak, the guidance from the health officer may be attached here. This is a key reference document in the development of strategies and tactics identified for the event response.

The Incident Commander will approve all information contained on NHICS form 202. The Planning Chief has the responsibility for completing the form; if this role has not been activated or cannot be filled, the Incident Commander assumes the responsibility.

#### NHICS Form 203: Organization Assignment List

This form provides a documentation tool that reflects those positions on the Incident Management Team chart that are activated in the response, and the nursing home personnel currently assigned to the position. In larger facilities, a representative from the nursing home may respond to the (external) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within the jurisdiction. This position should be documented on the form.

#### NHICS Form 205: Incident Communications Plan

Communications are an integral element of the response, and are most often cited as a failure in the response. This form allows for clear assignment of available technology, including radios, telephones, pagers, and other devices. Facilities may elect in the planning stage to complete this form with the systems and technology currently available. Decisions may also be made in the planning stage concerning the assignment of response specific to technology and tools. For example, if the nursing home has 4 two-way radios available for use in the response, these may be indicated on the form along with the IMT position to which each radio is assigned.

#### NHICS Form 206: Staff Injury Plan

In some cases, the care of ill or injured employees must be considered. If there is infrastructure damage to the facility that causes injuries to staff or if there is an infectious disease outbreak that requires assessment and prophylaxis of employees, the nursing home may need to care for its staff. NHICS form 206 documents these actions, providing clear direction as to the location of occupational health services and accountability for protection of employees.

#### NHICS Form 207: Organizational Chart

Similar to the information contained on NHICS form 203, position assignments are documented in a visual organization chart / incident management team format that can be distributed to appropriate personnel.

#### NHICS Form 213: Incident Message Form

Clear documentation of messages received and sent in activation is important both for ensuring critical information flow and follow-up actions taken. The person sending the message should document legibly the request being made, including the need for follow-up of actions taken. Persons receiving messages should use the form to document actions taken as requested and provide answers to messages. This form may also be used for documentation of telephone or radio messages received, again serving as a tool to record requests and actions. The NHICS form 213 may be produced on NCR (non- carbon) paper, allowing for multiple copies of the messages to be routed accordingly. When used effectively, this allows for message archive without the use of a copy machine.

#### NHICS Form 251: Facility System Status Report

This form can and should be customized to the individual nursing home. Used when there is structural damage (power failure, earthquake, severe weather, and fire) key information is gathered on the infrastructure of the facility. This will aid in determining the capability of the facility to sustain operations, as well as provide clues to system recovery for engineers.

#### NHICS Form 252: Section Personnel Time Sheet

This form is used when an alternative staff time tracking system is needed due to power failure or other incident related conditions. This form can also be used to document the persons assigned to IMT positions, facilitating cost projections and financial reimbursement when possible.

#### NHICS Form 253: Volunteer Staff Registration

This form is used to document those non-nursing home personnel who respond and are assigned to the nursing home in support of operations. This form is used to document the screening of volunteers through reference or criminal background checks and/or credentialing if feasible, and then is used to track these persons to facilitate financial reimbursement when possible.

#### NHICS Form 256: Procurement Summary Report

This form is used by the Finance/Administration Section to track all supplies and equipment procured in the response and recovery phase, providing an ongoing cost assessment tool for current and projected operations.

#### NHICS Form 257: Resource Accounting Record

A major component in a successful response that utilizes outside resources is the ability to track and account for supplies and equipment used. This form provides a tracking tool for those items, allowing for rapid identification of what is being used in the response and what is still needed.

#### NHICS Form 258: Facility Resource Directory

The resource directory can be customized in the planning stage to identify those current resource partners, such as transportation services and supply vendors, as well as those resources that may only be used in an emergency such as emergency management officials, health officials, and repair services. It is critical during the response to have accurate contact information, with redundancies of information. This data can be collected well in advance of an event, and may serve to identify those response partners within the jurisdiction of the nursing home that can be engaged in planning.

### NHICS Form 259: Master Facility Casualty and Fatality Report

In the event of resident injury or death, this form may be used to report to local health and emergency management officials, as defined within the jurisdiction. In planning, the release of information should be discussed, identifying those agencies or individuals to whom potentially confidential information will and will not be released.

### NHICS Form 261: Incident Action Safety Analysis

All Incident Action Plans contain a safety analysis. This form directs the Safety Officer to identify those potential hazards and direct mitigation efforts to lessen the risk of injury or illness. For example, in a power failure it may be advised to restrict all residents to their rooms to prevent falls in areas where lighting is limited. This is information that would be documented, with the assignment of restriction of resident movement assigned to branches.

### Emergency Resident Tracking/Evacuation Tracking

In the event the facility receives residents or other individuals from the response or as transfers from another facility or hospital, or evacuation is necessary, please refer to the Efinds policy and procedure (8.2.13.2).

## **Facility Command Center**

It will be important that an area be designated within the nursing home to serve as the Facility or Nursing Home Command Center. Conference rooms are often used for this purpose. The room ideally should be in a secure location and suitable in size to accommodate the anticipated number of personnel filling IMT positions who will operate from this area. Access to phones, computers with internet capability, printers, fax machine, and general supplies (paper, pencils, etc.) will be important. Having a large whiteboard for documentation and projection capability may be helpful. Convenient access to bathrooms and food will also be important.

Space should be organized so each command position has a desk area and access to available technology. Persons assuming a command role should be easily identified by use of vests or other suitable clothing item (i.e. hat, armband).

If staffing allows, assigning persons to serve as assistants to those in charge has been shown to be invaluable. They can assist by answering phones and documenting key pieces of information.

## **Incident Action Plan**

An incident action plan (IAP) formally documents incident goals (known as control objectives in NIMS), operational period objectives, and the response strategy defined by incident command during response planning. It contains general tactics to achieve goals and objectives within the overall strategy, while providing important information on event and response parameters. Equally important, the IAP facilitates dissemination of critical information about the status of response assets themselves. Because incident parameters evolve, action plans must be revised on a regular basis (at least once per operational period) to maintain consistent, up-to-date guidance across the system.

The following should be considered for inclusion in an IAP:

- Incident goals (where the response system wants to be at the end of response)
- Operational period objectives (major areas that must be addressed in the specified operational period to achieve the goals or control objectives)
- Response strategies (priorities and the general approach to accomplish the objectives)
- Response tactics (methods developed by Operations to achieve the objectives)
- Organization list with ICS chart showing primary roles and relationships
- Assignment list with specific tasks
- Critical situation updates and assessments
- Composite resource status updates
- Health and safety plan (to prevent responder injury or illness)
- Communications plan (how functional areas can exchange information)
- Logistics plan (e.g., procedures to support Operations with equipment, supplies, etc.)
- Responder medical plan (providing direction for care to responders)
- Incident map (i.e., map of incident scene)
- Additional component plans, as indicated by the incident.

The facility's Emergency Preparedness Management Plan's scope is to provide for a program that ensures effective response to disasters or emergencies affecting the environment of care. As stated above, an Incident Command System framework will be utilized to manage/respond to all emergent situations that may affect the facility.

The objective of the Emergency Preparedness Plan is to effectively manage a disaster.

- The goals of the Emergency Preparedness Management Plan includes the following:
  - Utilize Incident Command System (ICS) to manage individual emergency situations as per attached ICS policy.
  - Providing education to personnel on the elements of the Emergency Preparedness Management Program and ICS program;
  - Establishing and implementing procedures in response to an assortment of disasters;

- Identifying alternate sources for supplies and services in the event of a disaster.

## RESPONSIBILITY

The Safety Officer in conjunction with the Administrator in conjunction with the director of Environmental Services is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the Emergency Preparedness Program at this facility. The facility's Incident Commander (See ICS Policy) will activate the emergency management system as needed for all emergent situations.

### SPECIFIC PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO A VARIETY OF DISASTERS

This facility has developed specific procedures in response to potential disasters that may occur. (The samples included in this manual are intended to be used as a guideline for development of facility-specific disaster policies, i.e., Bomb Threat, Earthquake Response Procedure Policy, Tornado, Severe Weather, Work Stoppage, Loss of Resident, Loss of Communications, and emerging infectious diseases. All variety of potential incidents will be managed through the facility Incident Command System.

### DEFINE AND INTEGRATE THE FACILITY'S ROLE WITH THE COMMUNITYWIDE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

- Implementation of the facilities Emergency Preparedness Plan will be conducted at least semiannually (and no less than four months apart or more than eight months apart), either in response to a disaster or as a planned drill.
- This facility cooperates with all local, county and state disaster preparedness drills. The Organization is a member of the countywide emergency preparedness system and coordinates with other agencies any large scale drills.
- The facility ICS protocol will be utilized to allow for seamless integration into the community wide Emergency Management System.

### Notification of External Authorities

- The facility shall have two-way radio or cellular equipment and operators, which are familiar with the equipment. External communication will be mostly with Emergency Control Centers.

### NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL WHEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEASURES ARE INITIATED

- In an emergency, which is so widespread to be considered a disaster and/or involving mass casualties, all facility personnel, regardless of position are expected to report to the facility for duty as soon as it is feasible to travel. Each department director maintains a current callback list of all employees. Once the emergency preparedness plan has been activated, the department director will assign a staff member to initiate the callback list.

- Facility volunteers will be asked to leave the facility and not participate in emergency events. The facility will utilize and rely on its sister facilities and corporate employees in the event of an emergency. A Disaster Liaison facilities contact information staff listing is maintained by the Payroll Department and distributed periodically to the facility Administrators. If such need arises, the Administrator will notify the corporate office who will assist in coordination of resources and sister facility staff assistance.
- Please see below for the 1135 waiver regarding Medical/Professional Volunteers.
- In the event there is excess personnel, the Command Post will communicate with department directors regarding rescheduling of personnel for future needs. The medical staff will report to the Incident Commander for assignments.
- See Emergency Preparedness Delegation of Responsibilities Policy. Incident Management Team Roles Policy.

#### ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL IN EMERGENCIES TO COVER ALL NECESSARY STAFF POSITIONS

- All personnel reporting to the facility in the event of a disaster shall report to the Incident Commander to sign in. Personnel who have been directed to report to their assigned unit will do so all others will be assigned to areas where help is needed. Personnel may not necessarily be assigned to their regular duties. Personnel will be asked to perform various jobs or working hours, which will be considered vital to an effective operation.

#### MANAGEMENT OF SPACE, SUPPLIES AND SECURITY

- Essential supplies, equipment, food, water and utilities must be provided to meet shelter requirements for up to two weeks. Procedures are in place for the procurement of additional supplies in an emergency. At the time the Emergency Preparedness Plan is activated, the Maintenance Department Personnel on duty will be responsible for locking all exits and entrances. Employees are required to wear nametags or carry cards identifying them as employees. Only persons with proper identification shall be admitted to the facility during an emergency.
- Emergency Delivery of supplies-The facility maintains a 5 day supply of medical supplies on hand. In the event of an emergency, the facility takes precedence for delivery of medical supplies for resident services. In the event of power outages, the facility's last order will be repeated and delivered as soon as possible and in concert with the usual deliver. Should additional supplies be required, the facility can phone in orders and supply trucks will be on standby for delivery.
- US Foods Emergency Provisions
  - U.S. Foods Buffalo will keep Emergency/Disaster Plan documents on file for any customer wishing to participate.
  - In the event of an Emergency/Disaster the Customer should contact US Foods to arrange for shipment of their Emergency Order.
  - In the event of a local Production System failure, US Foods has a redundant system in place to handle order entry and warehouse functions. In the event of a local disaster, U.S. Foods has sister distribution facilities ready to help supply product, equipment, personnel

and computer services if necessary. In the event of a disaster, our National Processing Center in Greenville, SC, our data is maintained in disaster recovery centers throughout the U.S that will enable us to keep functioning. In the event of an usfood.com catastrophic failure, our customer service teams can take orders over the phone.

- US Foods commits to:
  - Refrigerated/Freezer Truck (U.S. Foods Buffalo, Inc. will make available when possible or assist in making rental arrangements)
  - Flexible delivery schedule
  - Cooking Supplies - Steamtable Trays, Sterno, Etc.
  - Food Supplies: Cereals, Non-Fat Dry Milk, Instant Foods, Canned Juices, Bottled Water, Portion Control Items, Supplements
- In the event of an in-house disaster, the above accommodations will be made within twenty-four hours; however, if the disaster is external, food and/or supplies will be delivered within forty-eight hours.
- If a disaster should strike our facility, U.S. Foods Buffalo will use, as needed, our facilities in the East and/or West areas to provide service and delivery to your location.

#### EVACUATION OF THE FACILITY

- When a situation arises requiring evacuation of patients from threatened or affected areas; safety of lives is the facility's primary concern. Authority to order an evacuation is vested only in the Incident Commander or his/her designee. Patients shall be evacuated to an area of safety by whatever means are available. Formal agreements are in place with ambulance services and neighboring facilities to transfer patients as necessary. All personnel have been trained in evacuation procedures. Evacuation routes are posted throughout the facility.
- Universal Transportation assistance (TAL) are utilized to help streamline and coordinate planned evacuations. TAL classifications are used to assess the types of resources needed (bus, vans, ambulances) by each patient during a planned evacuation. TAL tags are located in the facility evacuation tote located in a designated area within the facility.
- See Emergency Preparedness Evacuation Procedure.

#### ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATE CARE SITE WHEN THE ENVIRONMENT CANNOT SUPPORT ADEQUATE PATIENT CARE

- Formal agreements are in place so that, patients may be transferred to a facility that can provide adequate patient care. The following agreements are in place:
  - Ambulance contract agreements for transfer of patient between facilities.
  - Transfer agreements will be made between neighboring facilities.
  - Vendors will be contracted for special needs or arrangements.

- See Emergency Preparedness Evacuation Policy.

#### MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS DURING EMERGENCIES (I.E., SCHEDULING, MODIFICATION OR DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICES, CONTROL OF PATIENT INFORMATION AND PATIENT TRANSPORTATION)

- Upon activation of the Emergency Preparedness Plan, normal admission requirements will be abolished. Initially, admissions to the facility will be limited to those whose survival depends upon services obtainable only through facility bed care.

#### **Alternate Sources of Essential Utilities**

The facility will provide for alternative sources of essential utilities including:

- An emergency source of electrical power capable of operating all essential electrical equipment and a plan for failure of back up generators;
- An alternate source of safe water;
- An alternate means of waste disposal in the event of sewage system failure;
- Sufficient fuel to last for at least two weeks of expanded operation.

#### **Backup Communication System**

The Facility will provide for alternate communication methods in the event of a failure. Two-way radio equipment and facility owned cell phones shall be available in the event of a disaster.

#### **Alternate Roles and Responsibilities of Employees during Emergencies**

Employees may not be assigned to their regular duties. Employees will be asked to perform various jobs, which will be considered vital to the effective operation of the facility. Employees will be assigned duties based on the needs of the facility.

#### **Orientation and Education Program for those Who Implement the Plan**

Personnel will attend orientation upon hire and an annual update of their specific roles and responsibilities and the skills they require to perform their duties during a disaster. Inservice education will be given on the back-up communication system and obtaining supplies/equipment in the event of a disaster.

### **Performance Standards**

There is a planned, systematic, interdisciplinary approach to process design and performance measurement, analysis and improvement related to organization wide safety. The organization will develop and establish performance measures and related outcomes, in a collaborative fashion, based those priority issues known to be associated with the healthcare environment. Performance measures and outcomes will be prioritized based upon high risk; high volume, problem prone situations and potential or actual sentinel event related occurrences. Criteria for performance improvement measurement and outcome indicator selection will be based on the following:

- The measure can identify the events it was intended to identify;
  - The measure can detect changes in performance over time;
  - The measure allows for comparison over time within the organization or between the organization and other entities;
  - The data intended for collection are available; and
  - Results can be reported in a way that is useful to the organization.
- On an ongoing basis, monitor performance regarding actual or potential risk related to one or more of the following:
    - Staff knowledge and skills,
    - Level of staff participation,
    - Monitoring and inspection activities,
    - Emergency and incident reporting, or
    - Inspection, preventive maintenance, and testing of safety equipment;
    - Other performance measures and outcomes will be established based on the criterion listed above. Data sources, frequency of data collection, individual(s) responsible for data collection, aggregation and reporting will be determined by the Administrator or the organization.

- To identify opportunities for improvement, follow the organization's improvement methodology.
- Should a team approach be necessary for performance and process improvement to occur, the facility will follow the organization's performance improvement guidelines for improvement team member selection (QOC, QOL, QOWL, QOE). Determination of team necessity will be based on those priority issues listed (high risk, volume and problem prone situations and sentinel event occurrence). Should team development be deemed necessary, primarily, team members will be selected on the basis of their knowledge of the subject identified for improvement, and those individuals who are "closest" to the subject identified. The team will be interdisciplinary, as appropriate to the subject to be improved.
- Performance improvement monitoring and outcome activities will be presented to the Administrator by the Director of Environmental Services at least on a quarterly basis, with a report of performance outcome forwarded to the Continuous Performance Improvement Committee and Governing Body quarterly.
- The following performance measures may be used:
  - Percent of staff able to demonstrate knowledge and skill of their role and expected participation in the Emergency Preparedness Plan/ICS.
  - Percent of staff able to demonstrate knowledge of their responsibilities during a drill.
  - Number of emergency preparedness drills conducted within specified time span.

#### ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN'S OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS

- The performance and effectiveness of the Emergency Preparedness Management Program shall be reviewed by the organization, the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee and Administration.

#### ACTIONS UNDER 1135 WAIVER

1. For the purposes of this Section, an "emergency" is defined as a condition in which serious or permanent harm would result to a patient or in which the life of a patient is in immediate danger and any delay in administering treatment would add to that danger. In the case of an emergency, any practitioner, to the degree permitted by his/her license and regardless of department/section, Medical Staff membership or clinical privileges or allied health professional (AHP) status or practice prerogatives, shall be permitted to do, and shall be assisted by Facility personnel in doing, everything possible to save the life of a patient or to save a patient from serious harm. All efforts will be made to obtain a Medical Staff member with appropriate clinical privileges. Clinical privileges granted under an emergency situation shall terminate when a Medical Staff member with appropriate clinical privileges becomes available or the emergency ceases.

2. Emergency privileges in case of a disaster will be granted in accordance with the following:
  - a. Consistent with the current Facility Emergency/ Disaster Credentialing Policy (Facility Disaster Policy) clinical privileges or practice prerogatives may be granted when the Facility Incident Command System (ICS) plan has been activated and the Facility is unable to handle the immediate patient needs. This includes events of a bioterrorism attack or any other type of disaster situation whereby Volunteer Practitioners and AHPs, as those terms are defined in the Facility Disaster Policy, may require disaster credentialing.
    - i. Medical Records will set up a satellite post in the Medical Staff Services Department or other appropriate area where non-credentialed Volunteer Practitioners and AHPs will check in.
  
3. Emergency privileging for disaster situations is specialty-specific and Volunteer Practitioners or AHPs shall not carry out any clinical activities for which they do not already hold clinical privileges or practice prerogatives at another facility.

Procedure:

1. Upon presentation to the campus, Volunteer Practitioners and/or AHPs shall be directed to the Facility Representative responsible for disaster credentialing under the ICS plan. Volunteer Practitioners and/or AHPs must sign in and present required identification as follows: a valid government issued photo identification issued by a state or federal agency (e.g., driver's license or passport), and at least one of the following:
  - a. A current facility photo ID badge that clearly identifies the person's professional designation;
  - b. A current license, certificate, or registration to practice;
  - c. Identification indicating that the individual is a member of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), or Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), or other recognized state or federal organizations or groups;
  - d. Identification that indicates that the individual has been granted authority to render patient care, treatment, and services in disaster circumstances (such authority having been granted by a federal, state, or municipal entity); or
  - e. Identification of Volunteer Practitioners by current Facility Medical Staff member(s) who possess personal knowledge regarding the Practitioner's ability to act as a practitioner during a disaster, and of Volunteer AHPs by current Facility Medical Staff member(s) or AHPs who possess personal knowledge regarding the AHP's qualifications.
  
2. Required documentation on the Disaster Clinical Privileges Approval Form: The Volunteer Practitioner shall include all of the following information on the Disaster Clinical Privileges Approval Form:
  - a) Name of Practitioner or AHP (printed and signed)
  - b) Specialty or AHP Category
  - c) Office Address and Phone Number
  - d) Professional License/Certificate/Registration Number and Expiration Date
  - e) Driver's License or Passport Number and Expiration Date
  - f) Date of Birth
  - g) Name of Professional Liability Insurance Carrier and Limits of Liability

h) Name of Professional School and Year of Graduation

## i) Facility Affiliation(s) and Staff Status

## 3. Verification Process:

The Facility Representative shall verify professional licenses /certificates/registrations as follows:

1. Primary Source Verification: Query the appropriate licensing/certification/registration board online, and print verification if possible.
2. If computer access is not available, a copy (if possible) of the Practitioner's or AHP's professional license/certificate/registration and driver's license or other identification shall be made and attached to the Disaster Clinical Privileges Approval Form. If a copier is not available, the Facility Representative shall perform a visual verification of the above documents, and document such verification.
3. If primary source verification of professional licensure/certification/registration cannot be accomplished at the time of initial credentialing, it must be performed as soon as the immediate situation is under control and completed no later than seventy-two hours from the time the Volunteer Practitioner or AHP presented to the campus. In extraordinary circumstances when primary source verification cannot be completed within seventy-two hours (e.g., no means of communication or lack of resources), it shall be accomplished as soon as possible. In this extraordinary circumstance, the following must be documented:
  - a. Why primary source verification could not be performed in the required timeframe;
  - b. Evidence of the Practitioner's or AHP's demonstrated ability to continue to provide adequate care, treatment, and services;
  - c. Attempt(s) to rectify the situation as soon as possible.
4. The Medical Staff Credentialing Department shall query the National Practitioner Data Bank and other sources as needed as soon as the emergency situation has been contained.
5. Primary source verification shall not be required if the Volunteer Practitioner or AHP has not provided care, treatment and services under the Disaster Clinical Privileges Approval Form, as appropriate.

a. Who May Grant Disaster Clinical Privileges/Practice Prerogatives: Medical Director or their designees may grant Disaster Clinical Privileges or Practice Prerogatives. The option to grant Disaster Clinical Privileges or Practice Prerogatives to Volunteer Practitioners and/or AHPs shall be made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the immediate needs of the Facility's patients, based on the qualifications of the Volunteer Practitioners and/or AHPs.

## 6. Temporary Badges:

a. So that they may be readily identified, Volunteer Practitioners and/or AHPs shall be issued badges containing the following information:

1. Name
2. Licensure
3. Specialty or AHP category
4. Practicing with Disaster Clinical Privileges, as appropriate
5. Oversight:

The Medical Staff shall oversee the care, treatment, and services provided by a Volunteer Practitioner or AHP who has been granted Disaster Clinical

Privileges. Oversight shall be accomplished whenever possible by

partnering the Practitioner or AHP with a current credentialed Facility Medical Staff member or AHP, as appropriate, to observe or mentor the Volunteer Practitioner or AHP. If partnering is not possible, oversight shall be by clinical record review. A Volunteer Practitioner or AHP may be assigned additional responsibilities by the Medical Director as designated under the ICS plan.

b. Continuation of Disaster Clinical Privileges: The Facility shall make a decision within seventy-two hours regarding the continuation of a Volunteer Practitioner's or AHP's Disaster Clinical Privileges, based on information obtained regarding the professional performance of the Volunteer Practitioner or AHP.

c. Termination of Disaster Clinical Privileges: A Practitioner's or AHP's Disaster Clinical Privileges shall be terminated immediately in the event that any information received through the verification process or otherwise indicates adverse information or suggests the Practitioner or AHP is not capable of exercising Disaster Clinical Privileges. Disaster Clinical Privileges are time-limited and shall expire automatically at the time the Administrator or designee declares the disaster to be over, or that the services of Volunteer Practitioners or AHPs are no longer required.

## B. Section 1135 Waivers

1. Section 1135 waiver(s) applies when a major disaster or emergency is declared and the Secretary of HHS has declared a public health emergency.

a. Facility must implement its disaster protocol and Mutual aid as outlined in Manual 8-2.

b. Facility must notify CMS through the appropriate State Survey Agency when it implements its disaster protocol.

c. The Secretary exercises his or her waiver power under Section 1135 to cover the area in which the Facility is located.

d. The Facility Administrator/Incident Commander will complete the 1135 waiver form when applicable and as declared by the Secretary.

e. Waivers typically end no later than the termination of the emergency periods, or 60 days from the date the waiver or modification is first published, unless otherwise extended by the Secretary for additional periods of up to 60 days.

f. Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) sanctions for redirection of an individual to receive medical screening and examination in an alternative location pursuant to a state emergency preparedness plan or transfer of an individual who has not been stabilized if the transfer is necessitated by the circumstances. EMTALA requirements are effective only if actions under the waiver do not discriminate in the basis of a patient's source of payment or ability to pay.

g. Waivers for Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and HIPPA requirements are limited to a seventy-two-hour period beginning with the implementation

of the Facility's disaster protocol or, in the case of a pandemic infectious disease, until the termination of the declaration of the public health emergency.

h. Under the waiver, the Secretary authorizes SNF coverage in the absence of a qualifying hospital stay, as long as this action does not increase overall program payments and does not alter the SNF benefits acute care nature. The facility will accept beneficiaries who have not met the qualifying stay and are eligible to access part A benefits under the waiver.

2. The 1135 waiver of the Facility's requirements will apply only for the period during which the waiver has been authorized by the Secretary of HHS.

This facility utilizes an Emergency Management Committee to oversee the management and updating of the facility's CEMP.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (EMC):**

The EMC and its members, jointly and separately, shall meet monthly and assume responsibility for the facility's Emergency Management/Preparedness Program (EMP).

The Safety Committee shall inform itself of standards for Emergency Preparedness incorporated in the Department of Health; Code of Federal Regulations Title 29; Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA); and be thoroughly versed in the Emergency Management related sections of The Life Safety Code (NFPA 101 2012 edition) and The Health Care Facilities Code (NFPA 99 2012 Edition). It shall acquaint itself with the functioning of the facility, its employees and environments. It shall apply this information to design, implement, maintain and advance the facility's Emergency Management Program.

The EMC will develop written policies and procedures as needed in order to ensure that the facility's Emergency Management Program is viable, up to date and compliant with current codes and regulations.

The EMC will report in writing pertinent findings and recommendations to the Administration, Medical and Nursing Staffs and all departments as needed.

Periodic inspections of the facility and grounds shall be conducted for the purpose of assuring compliance with the facility Emergency Preparedness Program. The EMC shall:

- Meet monthly and shall record its activities. Summaries of all activities shall be forwarded to Administration and Department Heads.
- Report quarterly to Administration, on the key Emergency Preparedness initiatives.
- Review/update facility Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) on an annual basis

- Act as organizational “Risk Team” and review/update facility “NFPA 99 Risk Assessments” as per NFPA 99 (2012 Ed) minimally on an annual basis or as needed to address changes in facility systems and/or equipment.
- Work with Education Department to in-service all facility staff on new and ongoing Emergency Preparedness initiatives.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATION:**

Toward fulfillment of the general and specific emergency preparedness goals of the Facility, the Administrator shall:

- Assure the formation and development of the EMC.
- Appoint a chairperson who is qualified and the members to the EMC.
- Provide Administration representation on the EMC. Ensure the participation and representation on the EMC.
- Assure that the facility’s emergency preparedness policies and plan is reviewed and shared at resident council minimally on an annual basis.
- Assure that the facility’s emergency preparedness policy family/responsible party notification flyer is included with the facility admission packet for all new residents

The duty of the administrator shall be to convene the EMC, assure the maintenance of appropriate records, assure timely follow-up of actions and business of the EMC, supervise inspection, survey activity and report recommendations and actions, and act as liaison with the community Emergency Management Personnel and other agencies as needed on matters relative to Emergency Preparedness.

The Administrator/designee has authority and responsibility to convene the EMC outside of the regular meeting schedule as needed to ensure that any newly arising Emergency Preparedness related issues are addressed by the committee in a timely manner.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS:**

The role of the Department Directors in our EMP is vitally important. The EMP through verbal and/or in writing shall alert departments or services of Emergency Management issues that require intervention.

The following responsibilities lie with the Department Directors:

- Implement and organize Emergency Preparedness activities and tasks for department.
- Develop techniques and procedures for specific operations.
- Select and train employees.
  - Each Department Director is responsible to verify and ensure that staff members are able to effectively demonstrate their roles/responsibilities within the EMP for their particular position.
  - It is the responsibility of the EMC to ensure that Department Directors have a thorough knowledge of the EMP and apply on-the-job instructions for all employees.
- Supervise and evaluate employee performance.
- Cooperate with the EMC in the promotion of its activities.
- Assist in monitoring Emergency Preparedness recommendations as outlined by the EMC and/or organization.

Utilize the following checklist as guidance for activation of the facility CEMP.

Task	Completed By
<input type="checkbox"/> Upon notification of hazard or threat from staff, residents, or visitors, activate the CEMP.	Incident Commander
<input type="checkbox"/> Activate the Communications Plan.	Incident Commander
<input type="checkbox"/> Notify staff of CEMP activation and the hazard or threat through the facility receptionist and/or overhead paging system.	Incident Commander
<input type="checkbox"/> Assess the potential or actual impact of the incident on residents, staff, and the facility.	Incident Commander along with situation specific staff.

Task		Completed By
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Incident Management Team to convene at designated Command Center location.	Incident Commander
<input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the hazard and using the “Notification by Hazard Type” table in the CEMP, conduct required notifications.	Staff to be assigned based on nature of incident and real time resource levels.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Set-up the facility’s Command Center. <i>Refer to section below checklist for more information.</i>	Staff to be assigned based on nature of incident and real time resource levels.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliver briefing to Incident Management Team, and other staff as appropriate, on the incident including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent or impact of the problem (e.g., hazards, life safety concerns)</li> <li>▪ Number of residents injured or affected</li> <li>▪ Status of resident care and ancillary services</li> <li>▪ Current and projected staffing levels</li> <li>▪ Status of facility plant, utilities, and environment of care.</li> </ul>	Incident Commander
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop an Incident Action Plan to establish goals and objectives to guide incident response throughout the next operational period. Operational period duration will be determined by Incident Commander (e.g., 12 hours, shift change).	Incident Commander along with Planning Section Chief and Safety Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare and distribute position-specific checklists for the Incident Management Team to use during incident response.	Planning Section Chief
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish a meeting schedule for Incident Management Team to maintain situational awareness of incident and response operations.	Planning Section Chief
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notify residents and their relatives or responsible parties of hazard information and response actions.	Designated by Incident Commander at time of incident via Incident Action Plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Task facility staff with completing additional tasks to meet established response goals and objectives.	Incident Management Team
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue to collect information about incident and its current or projected impacts and perform position duties as assigned.	Incident Management Team

### Command Center

The facility Command Center serves as the central location for the Incident Management Team to conduct the following activities:

- Plan and execute emergency operations;
- Exchange information (e.g., briefings, check-in meetings); and
- Store incident-related documentation.

**Prior to an incident**, facilities should consider the following when identifying a primary and contingency location for the Command Center:

- Located within the facility (e.g., not off-site);
- Provide space for tables and chairs; and
- Provide access to computers/internet and communications equipment (e.g., landline telephones, cell phones).

**After an incident**, if the pre-identified locations are rendered unusable—or if incident conditions require the Command Center to be relocated—the facility can utilize nearby facilities, or if absolutely necessary, a vehicle to serve as an off-site, mobile Command Center.

**Incident Management Team (IMT) Position Checklist**

The following checklists outline the responsibilities of each Incident Management Team position. They should be adapted as needed based on the internal policies and procedures of the facility.

INCIDENT COMMANDER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activate the CEMP and necessary Incident Management Team positions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Analyze potential threats or hazards (e.g., weather forecast, law enforcement intelligence) and assess potential or impacts on residents, staff, and the facility. Incident Management Team to assist.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brief the Incident Management Team on the nature of the problem, immediate issues, and the initial plan of action.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate expected or actual facility damage and assign staff to conduct a thorough site assessment. Incident Management Team to assist.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In accordance with local plans or procedures, notify emergency management, law enforcement, and fire officials of incident conditions for situational awareness and to relay critical needs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilitate regular briefings to review the status of response operations. Request status reports from staff on resident health and safety.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Observe the Incident Management Team for signs of stress and exhaustion and provide rest periods.

INCIDENT COMMANDER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine the appropriate protective action based on the presence of potential or actual hazards to resident safety and well-being. Incident Management Team to assist.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Share regular updates with residents and staff to maintain situational updates. Incident Management Team to assist.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Authorize procurement and distribution of resources.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain briefing from Incident Commander and <b>TMG Leadership representatives.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Draft initial message for notification of relatives and responsible parties regarding facility and resident status.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer inquiries from residents' relatives and responsible parties, the general public, and the media and direct questions/requests to appropriate individuals. Incident Management Team members will assist with resident and family questions/concerns.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop and disseminate status updates to be reviewed and approved by the Incident Commander <b>and TMG Leadership</b> before dissemination to relatives and responsible parties, media, and the public.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide guidance to other Incident Management Team members on the appropriate release of information to requesting entities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop regular status updates to keep staff informed of the incident and facility status. Updates will be communicated to staff with the help of the Incident Management Team.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assist in the development and distribution of signage as needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate concerns to the Incident Commander, as needed.

SAFETY OFFICER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain briefing from Incident Commander.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conduct site assessment to determine safety risks of the incident to residents, staff, and visitors.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Document the treatment plan for injured or ill staff. This will be completed in concert with a senior clinical team member designated by the Incident Commander.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post non-entry signs around unsafe areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate building or incident hazards and identify vulnerabilities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assess operations and practices of staff, terminate any unsafe activity, and recommend corrective actions to ensure safety of residents, staff, and visitors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct laundry and housekeeping staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure adequate supplies of linens, blankets, and pillows.</li> <li>▪ Ensure emergency linens are available for soaking up spills and leaks.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct food and dietary staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide and prepare food as needed during an emergency.</li> <li>▪ Ensure gas appliances are turned off before evacuating.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit resource requests to the Logistics Section Chief (if activated), as needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate concerns to the Incident Commander, as needed.

#### OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF

<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain briefing from Incident Commander.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assign staff to assess the facility and resident well-being.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine how facility clinical/resident care related services will continue as routinely as possible, including the provision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Routine nursing services and documentation</li> <li>▪ Medication dispersal per resident schedules.</li> <li>▪ Routine hygienic and nutritional care for residents.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrange for the provision of and/or documentation, transfer, and transportation critical medical services, such as dialysis and oxygen therapy, and emergency discharges for at-risk residents.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain resident and staff accountability.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure resident records during shelter-in-place operations.

OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assess pharmacy supplies and contact pharmacy, as needed, to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cancellation of deliveries.</li> <li>▪ Availability of backup pharmacy.</li> <li>▪ Availability of medical supplies.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate clinical staffing needs and activate additional staff, as needed. Work with Planning Section Team for activation of additional staff.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct nursing, rehabilitation and Social Services staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tend to physical and emotional needs of residents.</li> <li>▪ Assist in clearing rooms and hallways, exits, etc.</li> <li>▪ Support movement of residents during an evacuation.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	For receiving facility operations, ensure proper management of arriving residents and their records, including documentation of triage, treatment, and disposition of emergency admits.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Document resident injuries (and action plan to ensure treatment) or deaths.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit resource requests to the Logistics Section Chief (if activated), as needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate concerns to the Incident Commander, as needed.

PLANNING SECTION CHIEF	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain briefing from Incident Commander.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Document Incident Management Team position assignments and contact information for all positions. Utilize NHICS forms 258 Facility Resource Directory, 207 Organization Chart and 203 Organization Assignments for the above information.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assist Incident Commander with planning response actions for next operational period (e.g., shift).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure backup and protection of existing data including paper-based and digital systems.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain all historical information and records related to the incident.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit resource requests to the Logistics Section Chief (if activated), as needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate concerns to the Incident Commander, as needed.

LOGISTICS SECTION CHIEF	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain briefing from Incident Commander.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distribute resource request forms to each Incident Management Team member. Document the request, use, return, and condition of resources used to respond. Utilize NHICS form 257 Resource Accounting Record for this task.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure the following resources are mobilized, assigned, and tracked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff and Surge Support</li> <li>▪ Emergency Supplies</li> <li>▪ Communications Equipment</li> <li>▪ Food and Water</li> <li>▪ Transportation</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Document volunteer sign-in and sign-out for each operational period (e.g., shift). This will be completed in concert with facility Staffing Coordinator and HR Manager.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request Incident Commander approval to activate emergency service related vendor agreements for additional resources.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate concerns to the Incident Commander, as needed.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SECTION CHIEF	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain briefing from Incident Commander.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiate protection of, or move/relocate facility records, as needed. Completed in concert with facility medical records and Business office representatives.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain incident cost tracking and analysis, including the documentation, retrieval, safeguarding and distribution of cash, credit card, and receipt/invoice processes. Business office manager will coordinate with <b>TMG Financial Operations Representatives</b> to manage this process.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Document and track facility-wide personnel work hours worked relevant to the emergency. Facility Payroll and HR Managers will coordinate with <b>TMG VP of Administration.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact insurance company to notify them of the incident and identify and document requirements for submitting damage/claim reports. <b>TMG Financial Operations Representatives.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consult with government officials regarding reimbursement regulations, requirements, and forms. <b>TMG Financial Operations Representatives.</b>

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SECTION CHIEF	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approve and submit a financial status report to the Incident Commander summarizing cost-to-date financial data relative to personnel, supplies, and miscellaneous expenses. Only as requested.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that required financial and administrative documentation is properly prepared and maintained.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Process invoices received.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit resource requests to the Logistics Section Chief (if activated), as needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate concerns to the Incident Commander, as needed.

### Demobilization Checklist

Tasks	
<b>Activate repatriation process.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refer to the <i>NYSDOH Evacuation Plan Template</i> for further guidance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure compliance with all local and NYSDOH requirements regarding inspections, remediation actions, and conditions for approval of repatriation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Receive approval from NYSDOH to reopen the facility as well as any necessary local municipality approvals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiate repatriation plans and procedures.
<b>Deactivate IMT positions and surge staffing.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine if there is an adequate number of facility personnel to meet remaining incident needs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deactivate IMT positions that are no longer needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce surge staff (e.g., off-duty personnel, volunteers, contract support) and provide guidance on close-out procedures (e.g., where to submit documentation).
<b>Return or restore emergency resources.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimate current and anticipated resource requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine which facility-owned resources need to be returned to storage locations in the facility; or replenished/repared for future incidents.

Tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine processes for transitioning borrowed resources back to sending facility/provider.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reactivate normal services and operations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine when it is safe to resume normal operations after conferring with the local authority, NYSDOH Regional Office, fire department, law enforcement, public health, and/or any other response authority.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

This tool describes the relationships facilities should strive to build with local response partners during pre-incident planning. Building a better relationship with these agencies will streamline incident response and information sharing. Trying to construct these relationships will be considerably more difficult during the middle of an incident.

**County Office of Emergency Management**

Forming a partnership with the County Office of Emergency Management is one of the more important relationships a facility can build within the community. Emergency management agencies are often the source of the most current and up to date information regarding incidents and hazards.

Establishing a line of communication with the local office of emergency management will help streamline critical information sharing and coordination with facilities. In addition, emergency management agencies can provide opportunities to better prepare for incidents through informational materials, trainings and exercises.

The following table outlines suggested action items for developing and maturing relationships with emergency management agencies.

Office of Emergency Management	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish point of contact at the County Office of Emergency Management. (Note: A list of county-specific agencies is available at <a href="http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/oem/contact/map.cfm">http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/oem/contact/map.cfm</a> )
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarify protocol and mechanisms for accessing information from the County Office of Emergency Management, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resource availability throughout the region</li> <li>▪ Pre-determined location list</li> <li>▪ Current available services and utilities</li> </ul>

Office of Emergency Management	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hazard forecasts</li> <li>▪ Mass notification systems</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand jurisdiction's response processes and capabilities, including available resources and response priorities in a large disaster.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify available opportunities for training and exercises with the County Office of Emergency Management.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify critical information that the facility should relay to the County Office of Emergency Management before and during a disaster (e.g., facility status, number of residents needing transport, or infrastructure status).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seek County Office of Emergency Management input on CEMP development.

### Fire Department and Law Enforcement

Enhancing relationships with first responder agencies are also critical to expediting the response process. These agencies will often be the first of the group to support facilities and relay critical incident information.

The following table outlines suggested action items for maturing relationships with fire department and law enforcement agencies.

Fire Department and Law Enforcement	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish point of contact at fire department, emergency medical services, and law enforcement agency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify what critical information should be relayed to fire department, emergency medical services, and law enforcement agencies before, during, and after a disaster.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify opportunities for training and exercises with fire department and law enforcement agencies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Solicit fire department and law enforcement agency input on recommendations to expedite response and recovery actions, including pre-staging equipment/resources, best ingress and egress from facility, and debris removal to restore emergency access.

## Corporate Organization

If the facility is part of a larger multi-facility system, the facility should coordinate with its parent organization to ensure pre- and post-incident activities adhere to corporate policies, and to ensure the facility is appropriately empowered to execute incident management functions (e.g., permissions for external messaging, clarification of branding standards).

### *Community Stakeholders*

Facilities are encouraged to build relationships with additional community stakeholders to assist with the disaster response and recovery. Some examples of the assistance that can be provided include volunteer support, surge staffing, and resources.

Community stakeholders may be different for every facility, but may include resource providers and vendors (e.g., transportation providers, fuel); local subject matter experts (e.g., engineering, finance and recovery, sustainability and mitigation); and volunteer resources.

The table below outlines potential volunteer resources that may be utilized to augment or supplement facility staff and operations prior to, during, or after an emergency.

Entity	Description and Skills
<b>ServNY</b>	<p>Administered by the NYSDOH Office of Health Emergency Preparedness, ServNY is an online registration system for licensed healthcare professionals to volunteer when local and regional resources are exhausted. Volunteers are notified of staffing requests via phone or email. ServNY may also be activated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ County Office of Emergency Management submits a request to the New York State Office of Emergency Management, which sends the request to Emergency Support Function-8 State Health Desk, and then to the NYSDOH Emergency Preparedness; or</li> <li>▪ Direct order of the NYSDOH Commissioner or designee.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)</b>	<p>Community volunteers that are trained in disaster preparedness and basic disaster response skills. These skills include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fire Suppression</li> <li>▪ Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Airway obstruction</li> <li>– Bleeding</li> <li>– Shock</li> <li>– Basic first aid</li> <li>– Establishing a medical treatment area</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Light Search and Rescue</li> <li>▪ Team Organization</li> </ul>

Entity	Description and Skills
<b>Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)</b>	<p>MRC volunteers are imbedded in ServNY. Volunteers include practicing and retired medical and public health professionals. MRC volunteers can support response capabilities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disaster medical support</li> <li>▪ Health screenings</li> <li>▪ Vaccination clinics</li> <li>▪ Medical facility surge capacity</li> <li>▪ Planning, logistical, and administrative support</li> </ul>

**Communications Plan**

A communications plan helps facilities maintain situational awareness throughout the duration of an incident and enables facilities to share information effectively across the organization, as well as with any external partners who may be supporting the response.

**Objectives**

- Ensure communication policies, roles, and activities are clearly defined and well-understood by staff.
- Ensure internal and external communications are accurate, timely, and informative.
- Provide frequent updates to residents, staff, relatives/responsible parties to mitigate concerns and manage expectations.
- Only share known/confirmed information (i.e., do not speculate).
- Utilize one unified voice to avoid confusion or misinformation.

**Implementation**

Communications Checklist	
Preparedness	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Designate and train personnel to serve as Public Information Officer prior to an incident (i.e., during normal operations). Potential training courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">FEMA IS-29</a>: Public Information Officer Awareness (Free Online Course)</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">FEMA IS-42</a>: Social Media in Emergency Management (Free Online Course)</li> </ul>

### Communications Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop and refine pre-scripted messaging that can be tailored for incident use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Determine primary and redundant forms of communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Primary forms include landline-dependent communications such as telephones and cellphones.</li> <li>▪ Redundant forms are not dependent on functioning landline communication (e.g., include two-way radios, satellite radios).</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure multiple personnel have administrative access, training, and policies and procedures to the facility's website, social media accounts, and voicemail system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain up-to-date contact information for designated notification parties for all residents (e.g., relatives/responsible parties).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain up-to-date contact information for all staff.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarify approval processes for internal and external messaging content (e.g., peer review, senior leader final approval).
<b>Incident Response</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Request an updated on the incident from the Incident Management Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What happened?</li> <li>▪ What is the status of residents and personnel?</li> <li>▪ When will the incident be resolved?</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform internal audiences (e.g., personnel) about incident updates before informing external audiences.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide office personnel (e.g., receptionist) with guidance on where to direct incoming inquiries (e.g., media, personnel, relatives/responsible parties, vendors).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Maintain a log of incoming calls, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Name of caller</li> <li>▪ Name of publication or media source</li> <li>▪ Phone number</li> <li>▪ Email address</li> <li>▪ General nature of inquiry and any deadlines</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop a press release (or official facility statement) to post on facility website and social media pages.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Update the facility's voicemail recording to provide alternative contact information if the facility is evacuated and/or to field incoming inquiries.

## **Pre-scripted Messages**

Depending on the situation, numerous forms of alerts and warnings may be required to reach staff, residents, relatives and responsible parties, and the media.

It is vital to have several staff members who are solely responsible for fielding calls from residents' relatives and responsible parties and who are familiar with pre-scripted messaging usage. Only authorized spokespersons (e.g., Public Information Officer) should manage media and public inquiries.

### *Internal Pre-Scripted Messaging*

To facilitate timely and effective communications, the use of pre-scripted messaging templates can aid facilities to tailor for incident-specific messaging. During an incident, the facility will manage or coordinate the development and dissemination of these messages.

## **Immediate Messaging**

Please note that for incidents that pose an immediate threat to health or safety (e.g., active threat or fire), messaging should be short and direct (i.e., “**Intruder Alert Main Entrance**,” or in the case of fire, “**Code Red Zone 5**”).

## **CEMP Activation**

The following process will be used for on-duty staff members who will be needed to fill Incident Management Team positions:

On duty staff will be contacted directly and/or via overhead page. They will be told where to report and then will receive further information upon arrival.

The following process will be used for off-duty staff members who will be needed to support incident operations:

Off duty staff will be contacted directly and provided with all necessary situational information. Staff will be given all role assignments, obligations and their individual reporting structure along with appropriate team member contact information.

## **Informing the Residents**

Resident care personnel are responsible for informing their residents of the incident. It is important to accommodate for the unique needs of each resident and provide messaging appropriate to each resident's level of understanding.

Social Services staff will coordinate the process of informing facility residents of the emergent situation. Based on need and specific circumstances, other facility personnel may need to be involved in resident updates. Social Services staff will inform the Incident Commander of the needs and the IC will assign additional staff accordingly.

## **Informing Staff about Evacuation to Receiving Facility**

On duty staff will be informed of all evacuation related information and protocols through the

standard Incident Command System reporting structure. Incident Management Team members will notify and update their direct reports, and those individuals will update their direct reports. This process will continue until all appropriate staff has been updated.

### **Informing Residents about Evacuation to Receiving Facility**

The Incident Commander will assign appropriate facility staff to work in concert with Social Services in order to properly notify each resident of the impending evacuation and relocation. Social Services Staff will coordinate with assigned support staff to ensure that any residents with communication issues or other special needs are properly updated.

### **External Pre-scripted Messages**

#### **Robo-Call/Website Posting/Social Media Message**

Example Message

*[Facility Name] is currently experiencing [Description of Conditions] caused by [Incident Name]. Emergency operations have been initiated to manage the incident. [Provide high level information on residents' status]. We are taking extensive actions to protect residents. [For your safety and that of others, please do not attempt to come to the facility]. [In the event of evacuation, add] For resident safety and well-being, residents are being evacuated to [Location].*

*For more information, please contact [Name, Title] at [Phone/Email].*

### **Proactive Communication to Relatives and Responsible Parties**

When communicating with relatives and responsible parties it is important to provide high level information on the status of residents. If it is known that certain residents have been injured, or there are fatalities, stress the seriousness of the incident but do not release resident information until the status of injured residents and fatalities can be confirmed and the incident is contained.

Proactive communications with families and responsible parties will be conducted via Robo-Call utilizing the pre scripted message above or an alternate message if needed. Families and responsible parties will be contacted individually with more specific information once the situation permits such actions. At that time, appropriate staff members will be assigned to contact specific resident responsible parties in order to communicate high level facility information as well as resident specific information. Staff will also provide responsible parties with the name and contact information for their assigned facility liaison. On a go forward basis, all facility/responsible party communications will be conducted via the assigned facility liaison.

**Communications with the Public**

The facility should notify media outlets of the incident as deemed necessary by the Incident Commander. Only the Public Information Officer and authorized facility spokespersons should communicate with the public.

Key principles of communicating with the media and public are:

- Be knowledgeable. Know the facts before reporting out.
- Be strategic in what information is shared.
- Be credible. Do not try to distort facts to protect the facility. The facility will be held responsible for any misinformation that is provided by the Public Information Officer.
- Be accessible to inquiries; be transparent.
- Avoid statements such as “no comment” or other language that may appear deceptive. This will invite the public to draw their own misinformed conclusions.
- Be proactive. Control messaging that is released and do not let the media and public distort messaging. Correct any rumors that arise.
- Be flexible. Ensure the audience understands that the situation is unfolding, and information will be shared as it is made available.
- Be calm and collected.
- Be sure to provide contact information where the media and public can direct inquiries.

**Protective Action Decision Support**

Facilities should use sound decision-making criteria when considering which protective action to implement (e.g., evacuate, defend-in-place). The following questions can be used to arrive at a decision.

Protective Action Considerations	
<b>Information and Intelligence</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have local authorities issued protective action guidance?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have adjacent counties/municipalities protective action guidance?

<b>Protective Action Considerations</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the status of traffic near the facility?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the acuity of the current resident population?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the status of receiving facilities?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the capacity of receiving facilities to receive residents?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have send-receive arrangements been put in place and verified?
<b>Anticipated Impacts</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	What are the anticipated impacts on the facility?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the forecasted external temperature for the next seven days?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What facility infrastructure might be affected?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there any anticipated life safety issues?
<b>Resource Levels</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	What are staffing levels?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have surge-staffing options been implemented?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the status of medical, pharmaceutical, and resident care supplies?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the status of food and water?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the status of generators and fuel levels?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the status of transportation resources?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have any vendors/service provider agreements been activated?

### **After Action Review Process**

Following every exercise or real-world incident, it is vital to capture best practices, lessons learned, and areas for improvement in an After-Action Report (AAR). Plans, policies, and procedures should be updated to incorporate and address the outcomes outlined in each report.

After-Action Review Process	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Designate a staff member(s)</b> to conduct the After-Action Review process and solicit information for the AAR through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Post-incident/exercise discussions and evaluations.</li> <li>▪ Surveys and feedback forms from the Incident Management Team, staff, residents, responsible parties, and emergency supply vendors, and local emergency management providers.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Describe the event</b>, be it a real-world incident or an exercise. Include as much detail as possible. Questions to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When and where did the event occur? How long did the response last?</li> <li>▪ What was the nature and magnitude of the event? (For exercises, what is the summary of exercise activities?)</li> <li>▪ How did the incident impact residents, services, and the facility/facilities?</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Select the <b>focus areas</b> for the AAR based on areas needing improvement.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Under each focus area, describe <b>areas for improvement</b>. Questions to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What gaps, barriers, or challenges emerged?</li> <li>▪ What resources were needed that were not available?</li> <li>▪ What disruptions to services occurred?</li> <li>▪ How well did personnel understand their roles and responsibilities?</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Identify next steps for <b>improving future responses</b>. If possible, develop an improvement plan outlining priority levels, responsible parties, and estimated timelines for implementation. Provide additional training to cover areas of weakness.</p>

Event		Event Date		
[Incident/Exercise Name]		[Date]		
Event Description				
[Brief description of incident/exercise]				
Strengths				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ [Placeholder]</li> <li>▪ [Placeholder]</li> <li>▪ [Placeholder]</li> </ul>				
Areas for Improvement				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ [Placeholder]</li> <li>▪ [Placeholder]</li> <li>▪ [Placeholder]</li> </ul>				
Improvement Plan				
Issue/Area for Improvement	Corrective Action	Responsible Party	Start Date	Completion Date

**Resource Management**

Resource Considerations

Before a disaster occurs, it is important to have send-receive agreements in place; have lists of vendors and service providers; and have all necessary information about site generator systems on hand. This information is vital to the internal facility response, can help first responders, and can set accountability.

When determining which resources may be necessary for facility preparedness, consult the considerations below:

### Generators

- What reporting processes are in place in the event that a generator fails inspection, is not properly maintained, or fails a test?
  - Facility has current protocols in place to engage Penn Power and Ferguson Electric in the event of emergency generator failure. Penn Power is capable of providing the facility with an appropriately sized mobile generator set. The time to produce the generator will depend on its current location, but the time will not exceed 2 hours. Ferguson Electric will provide electricians to connect the mobile generator to the facility emergency panel at the time of delivery.
- What positions are routinely trained on the process of establishing emergency power to the building?
  - The emergency generator and transfer switch are designed and set to automatically (10 seconds or less) establish emergency power in the event of a loss of adequate electrical power to the facility. The transfer switch can also be operated manually by a properly trained individual if necessary.
  - Who is responsible for performing this task?
    - The Environmental Services Manager trains all Maintenance personnel on the proper procedures for establishing emergency power.
- What procedures are in place to troubleshoot generator system failures?
  - In light of safety concerns, only a factory trained technician or licensed electrician are authorized to adequately troubleshoot and/or repair the emergency generator. Penn Power and Ferguson Electric are available 24/7 to address these types of issues.
- How long can emergency power be sustained before having to replenish fuel if tank is full?
  - The facility generator operates on natural gas, and therefore, it can sustain emergency power indefinitely as long as the natural gas service remains operational through the utility.
- What systems, capabilities, and/or resources will be impacted if power is lost and emergency power is unable to be secured (e.g., food, water, ventilation)?
  - All heating, cooling, mechanical ventilation, refrigeration, hot water systems, laundry systems, some cooking equipment, EMR, oxygen manifold and mobile concentrators, fire alarm system once backup battery expires, lighting, emergency lighting and exit signs once backup batteries expire, most computer systems, internet/wifi and the main switchboard. Facilities with sewage lift stations, sewage grinders, macerating pumps, sump pumps, ejector pumps and fire pumps (electrical and pneumatic types) will lose service.
  - *\*Facilities with elevators - All elevator equipment will not be operational. Any multistory facilities that rely on any type of water distribution system other than gravity fed will need a protocol for water delivery to the uppermost floors.*
  - Equipment/services that will remain operational without electrical service are some cooking equipment, cell phone communications, two way radios, portable oxygen tanks, battery work lamps and lanterns, cold water services, all plumbing system components

other than pumps, sewer systems, natural draft ventilation, fire protection sprinkler system and hood mounted fire suppression system. *\*(Multistory facilities that rely on fire pumps to feed the sprinkler system on upper floors will lose this service.)*

## Fuel

- Is the emergency fuel source municipal fuel or local/on-site fuel?
  - Utility company's infrastructure supplies emergency natural gas.
- What is the current onsite fuel storage capacity?
  - n/a

## Potable Water

- Where is potable water stored on site?
  - 2 main potable water sources feed the facility system. The main feeds enter the facility from Seneca Street. Both potable water sources are protected by individual Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) assemblies to prevent potential source contamination. The facility has (2) 500 gallon storage tanks on site, both of which are constantly fed via the main municipality sources. These tanks are located in the facility boiler room, and can be isolated from both the main feed as well as the rest of the facility if necessary.
- What potential barriers are there to reaching the potable water during an emergency?
  - n/a
- Will potable water storage be safe from contamination by flood waters or severe storms?
  - Facility storage tanks can be isolated as needed to protect from internal plumbing system contamination. They are also constructed to resist infiltration of water and contaminants through the tanks and piping from exterior sources.
- Who manages the potable water storage? - Environmental Services Manager

## Transportation

- Which types of vehicles are immediately available to the facility?
  - (1) wheelchair accessible minibus, (1) 12 passenger van and (1) 4 passenger SUV.
- Are facility-owned vehicles maintained?
  - Yes - regularly
- Where can facility-owned vehicles access fuel?
  - Minimal fuel is available on site (less than 10 gallons)
  - Speedway is located approx. 1 mile north of the facility on Seneca Street.
- How many and which staff can operate facility-owned vehicles?
  - 9 staff members
  - Ron Johnson, Mike Johnson, Jamie Bishop, Rhonda Gorman, Pat McFeely, Dakarai Hubbard and Jeremy Lane, Merle Brickelmeyer, Jerid Vargovich
  - Where are copies of operator licenses kept?
    - Licenses are kept on file with HR

### **Medication/Pharmacy Services during Emergency Conditions:**

Medication/treatments will be supplied by PharMerica.

The agreement between the facility and PharMerica is on file with the Administrator.

### **PROCEDURE**

1. Medications/treatments will be obtained from PharMerica in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in this manual.
2. Should any problems arise with the Pharmaceutical Services provided, the contact person will be the Supervising Pharmacist at PharMerica.
3. Medication/treatments may be obtained from an alternate pharmacy provided that the pharmacy can provide medication/treatments in accordance with all facility policies and procedures and State and Federal codes, rules and regulations.

## **Medication Procurement**

### **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

In an emergency situation defined by the Commissioner's Ruling Public Health Law Section 3321:

Any health care facility which is licensed by the Department as a class 3 institutional dispenser or any retail pharmacy which is licensed by the State, and which health care facility or retail pharmacy is also duly registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), is exempt from the licensing requirements for the sale of a controlled substance stock by a pharmacy to a pharmacy provided such sale is solely to meet the immediate needs of the pharmacy receiving the controlled substance.

An immediate need exists when the facility or retail pharmacy is not capable of preparing a controlled substance medication or does not have a controlled substance in stock and immediate administration or dispensing of the drug is necessary for proper treatment.

This ruling shall only apply to transfers or sales of stocks of controlled substances. Transfers or sales of other prescription medications are governed by the State Education Law.

A pharmacy, under the direct supervision of the pharmacist, may sell or transfer schedule III, IV or V controlled substances to another authorized pharmacy pursuant to a written request submitted by the purchasing pharmacy or facility on business stationery. All such requests shall indicate the name and address of the requesting pharmacy, the name and address of the pharmacy furnishing the controlled substance, the DEA registration number of both pharmacies, date of the request, and the name, strength, dosage form and quantity of the controlled substance being requested.

Schedule II controlled substances shall be ordered only on an official DEA 222 order form or any successor form and/or methodology authorized by the U.S. DEA. All controlled substance requests must be signed and dated by both the furnishing and the requesting pharmacist.

The pharmacy (vendor) furnishing the requesting pharmacy (vendee) shall provide the vendee pharmacy with an itemized list of the drugs sold or transferred and shall include the name and address of the vendor pharmacy, the name and address of the vendee pharmacy, DEA numbers of both pharmacies, date of the sale or transfer and name, strength, dosage form and quantity of controlled substances being sold or transferred. Upon receipt of the controlled substance, the vendee pharmacist shall sign and date the itemized list of drugs sold or transferred.

The vendor pharmacy and the vendee pharmacy shall maintain all required records of such transfers and request in a separate file or in such a manner as will make them readily available for inspection by authorized representatives of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, New York State Health Department and/or the United States Drug Enforcement Administration or other law enforcement officials authorized by law to inspect such records.

### **PROCEDURE**

1. In the event that a controlled substance ordered for the resident is not available or not normally stocked in the facility pharmacy and cannot be changed to an equivalent controlled substance on hand in the pharmacy, the supervising pharmacist/designee obtains the ordered controlled substance from PharMerica or back up retail pharmacy.
2. The supervising pharmacist/designee calls PharMerica first to ensure that they have the ordered controlled substance on hand. If the ordered controlled substance is not available at PharMerica, the back up pharmacy is called.
3. For all Schedule III, IV and V controlled substances, the supervising pharmacist/designee completes an Emergency controlled substance Request Form (4F.16.A-E) which includes: the facility pharmacy

name and address, the name and address of the pharmacy furnishing the controlled substance, DEA Registration number of both pharmacies, date of the request and the name, strength, dosage form and quantity of the controlled substance being requested.

4. For all Schedule II controlled substances, the supervising pharmacist/designee completes a DEA 222 order form. The form must be signed and dated by both the furnishing and receiving pharmacies.
5. Upon courier delivery of the requested controlled substance, the supervising pharmacist/designee verifies the contents against the manifest/invoice. The manifest/invoice includes: an itemized list of the controlled substance(s), name and address of the vendor pharmacy, name and address of the facility pharmacy, DEA numbers of both pharmacies, date of the sale or transfer, name, strength, dosage form and quantity of the controlled substance(s).
6. After reconciliation of the controlled substance(s), the supervising pharmacist/designee signs and dates the invoice/manifest and keeps a copy.
7. A copy of the manifest/invoice is maintained in the facility pharmacy in a separate binder.

#### Emergency Medication Box

#### POLICY

An emergency medication box will be available at each nursing unit. The box will contain medications that may be necessary for resident therapy during an emergency. In addition to the medications found in the emergency medication box, the nursing unit designated as the first aid station will contain a limited supply of specialized injectable medications.

#### PROCEDURE

1. The contents of each Emergency Box are recommended by the Facility Quality Assurance Committee and approved by the Medical Director, Director of Nursing and Consultant Pharmacist.
2. The Emergency Box will not contain any controlled substances.
3. The Emergency Box is maintained in the medication room of each nursing unit and kept locked at all times.
4. The Special Unit ER Box and the IV Solution Supply is kept on the sub-acute/designated unit.
5. The contents of the Emergency Box are identical on all nursing units, with the exception of the kit stored on the first aid unit of the facility, in which additional injectable medications are stored.
6. A list of Emergency Box and Special Unit ER Box contents is attached to the top of each box. An expiration date for the entire box is marked on the lock of the box. This indicates the date that the first item contained in the box expires.
7. In the event the Emergency Box/Special unit ER Box/IV solution supply is used:

- a. The Emergency Boxes are only used for emergency situation and is signed out accordingly by the nurse.

#### Emergency Medication Service

Medication/treatments will be supplied by PharMerica. PharMerica has 24 hour services available via on-call at the local pharmacy and/or its sister sites.

The agreement between the facility and PharMerica is on file with the Administrator.

In the event that PharMerica is unable to provide medication(s), the facility has entered into agreement with McKesson pharmacy to provide such services.

The facility is equipped with emergency medication kits (E-Kits) in dedicated locations available 24/7. Such E-Kits provide critical medications. Please refer to E-Kit policy.

#### PROCEDURE

1. The facility can reach a pharmacist any time of the day.
2. Medications/treatments will be obtained from PharMerica in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in this manual. Each medication unless otherwise specified is filled for a 30 day cycle.
3. For medication orders, the facility can call the pharmacy directly during normal business hours (8 AM to 9:30 PM) at 716-631-2433. Should any problems arise with the Pharmaceutical Services provided, the contact person will be the Supervising Pharmacist at PharMerica.
4. After hours "Emergency Service" will be described as the need for a medication that is not contained in the Emergency Box and must be administered for any emergency or STAT new orders:
  - a. after hours a pharmacist can be reached at 716-481-6931
  - b. pharmacist will call back within 1 hour
5. Medication/treatments may be obtained from an alternate pharmacy provided that the pharmacy can provide medication/treatments in accordance with all facility policies and procedures and State and Federal codes, rules and regulations.
6. McKesson Pharmaceutical may be used as back up in the event that PharMerica is unable to provide service.

## Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Activation</b>	To begin the process of mobilizing a response team, or to set in motion an emergency operations (response) or recovery plan, process, or procedure in response to incident or exercise.
<b>Automatic Sprinkler</b>	Ceiling sprinklers are located throughout the facility and are activated by heat, thereby setting off the water flow and the alarm.
<b>Defend-in-Place</b>	The ability of a facility to safely retain their residents in an incident-related situation (e.g., flood, severe weather, wildfire). This is also known as “hunkering down” during an event.
<b>Demobilization</b>	The orderly, safe, and efficient return of an incident resource to its original location and status.
<b>Evacuation</b>	Organized, phased, and supervised dispersal or removal of people from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.
<b>Evacuation Holding Area</b>	Temporary refuge for residents and staff during a facility evacuation, and if needed, point of embarkation for transport for longer-term evacuations.
<b>Evacuee</b>	A person removed or moving from areas threatened or struck by a disaster.
<b>Fire Alarm</b>	Loud ringing of bells, which may be activated by detectors, sprinklers, or manually, to alert residents and staff. When the bells sound, one of the systems has been activated and an emergency is occurring.
<b>Fire Doors</b>	These doors cut off a wing or a portion of a wing from adjoining areas to prevent drafts, which carry smoke, and retards the spread of fire.
<b>Hazard</b>	Something that is potentially dangerous or harmful, often the root cause of an unwanted outcome.
<b>Hazard Vulnerability Analysis</b>	A systematic approach to identifying all hazards that may affect an organization and/or its community, assessing the risk (probability of hazard occurrence and the consequence for the organization) associated with each hazard and analyzing the findings to create a prioritized comparison of hazard vulnerabilities. The consequence, or “vulnerability,” is related to both the impact on organizational function and the likely service demands created by the hazard impact.

Term	Definition
<b>Incident Action Plan</b>	An oral or written plan, containing objectives that reflect the overall strategy for managing an incident. It may include the identification of operational resources and assignments. It may also include attachments that provide direction and important information for management of the incident during one or more operational periods.
<b>Incident Command System</b>	A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, to organize field-level incident management operations.
<b>Incident Management</b>	The broad spectrum of activities and organizations providing effective and efficient operations, coordination, and support applied at all levels of government, utilizing both governmental and nongovernmental resources to plan for, respond to, and recover from an incident, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.
<b>Incident Management Team</b>	The Incident Management Team is comprised of pre-designated personnel who are assigned to plan and execute response and recovery operations. Incident Management Team activation is designed to be flexible and scalable depending on the type, scope, and complexity of the incident. As a result, the Incident Commander may decide to activate the entire team or select positions, based on the extent of the emergency.
<b>Lockdown</b>	A security measure taken during an emergency to prevent people from leaving a facility, and to prevent an active threat (one or more persons) from entering a facility.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Activities providing a critical foundation in the effort to reduce the loss of life and property from natural and/or manmade disasters by avoiding or lessening the impact of a disaster and providing value to the public by creating safer communities. Mitigation seeks to fix the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. These activities or actions, in most cases, will have a long-term sustained effect.
<b>Operational Period</b>	The time scheduled for executing a given set of operation actions, as specified in the Incident Action Plan. Operational periods can be of various lengths, although usually they last 12-24 hours.

Term	Definition
<b>Preparedness</b>	A continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response. Preparedness focuses on the following elements: planning; procedures and protocols; training and exercises; personnel qualification and certification; and equipment certification.
<b>Receiving Facility</b>	A facility that has entered into agreement with another facility (nursing home, adult care facility, hospital, etc.), offering to host residents and staff for some part of an emergency response.
<b>Response</b>	Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes.
<b>Recovery</b>	The development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans; the reconstitution of government operations and services; individual, private-sector, non-governmental, and public assistance programs to provide housing and to promote restoration; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; evaluation of the incident to identify lessons learned; post incident reporting; and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.
<b>Secure Area</b>	An area that has been checked and verified to be clear of fire/danger, with windows and doors closed, equipment shut down, and hallways free of obstacles.
<b>Shelter-in-Place</b>	<p>NYSDOH defines shelter-in-place as the protective action strategy of keeping a small number of residents in their present location when the risks of relocation or evacuation exceed the risks of remaining in current location.</p> <p>Can only be done for coastal storms. Requires pre-approval from NYSDOH prior to each hurricane season and pre-authorization at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Please refer to the 2019 Evacuation Plan.</p>
<b>Situational Awareness</b>	Is the ability to identify, process, and comprehend the essential information about an incident to inform the decision-making process in a continuous and timely cycle and includes the ability to interpret and act upon this information.
<b>Smoke Detector</b>	Smoke detectors are located on ceilings throughout the facility and respond to smoke thereby setting off the alarm.

Term	Definition
<b>Threat</b>	Natural or manmade occurrence, individual, entity, or action that has or indicates the potential to harm life, information, operations, the environment, and/or property.

For all Hazard Annexes below the NYSDOH Regional Office is to be notified during normal business hours. **For events that occur on nights, weekends or holidays, notify the NYSDOH Duty Officer at 866-881-2809.**

#### **Hazard Annex A: Active Shooter/Active Threat**

*An active threat is an individual or group of individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, often through the use of firearms.*

**CODE WORD / COMMUNICATION: Active Shooter**

STANDARD

The McGuire Group is strongly committed to its residents and employees in the provision of a safe, healthy and secure environment.

In the event of an active shooter incident, the facility will follow a systematic approach to keep residents and staff out of harm's way. In the end, individuals will have to make decisions based on their assessment of the situation in how to best maximize the protection of life and tactics to employ.

Active shooter incidents are defined as: those where an individual is "actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area." Active shooter incidents may occur inside or outside a building.

Practices:

#### 1. Prevention

- a. Identify and report their supervisor concerning behaviors: paranoid ideas, delusional statements, changes in personality or performance, disciplinary problems on site, depressed mood, suicidal thoughts, non-specific threats of violence, increased isolation or odd/bizarre behavior, and interest in or acquisition of weapons. Potential threats include: staff significant others, disgruntled current or former employees, family members of residents, etc.
- b. Encourage staff to report to their supervisor any real or potential threats or concerns regarding possible violent actions from spouses, ex-spouses, significant others, etc.
- c. Gather as much information about the situation as possible from the reporter, including a description of individual (photos if available), make and model of vehicle, etc, and contact police immediately if the person is seen on the property or in the immediate area.
- d. If a direct threat of violence is made towards the facility, the Administrator/designee is immediately notified and contacts police.

#### 2. Internal Procedure

- a. When an active shooter is identified by the facility, the front desk receptionist/designee is notified immediately.
- b. The front desk receptionist/designee pushes the "panic" button (when appropriate to notify local law enforcement) located at the front desk and when able, announces "active shooter" and the location where the shooter is. The announcement is made 3 times.
- c. If the active shooter enters the facility at a different location other than the front door, call 911.
- d. All people inside the facility should engage the Run-Hide-Fight continuum based on their individual set of circumstances.
  - i. RUN if there is an accessible escape path; attempt to evacuate residents, visitors, and staff away from the immediate area of the active shooter, if safe to do so. Be sure to:
    1. Have an escape route and plan in mind.
    2. Leave your belongings behind.
    3. Help others escape if possible.
    4. Keep your hands visible.
    5. Follow the instructions of any police officers.

6. Do not attempt to move wounded people.
7. If unable to evacuate residents, place residents in rooms and close doors. Do not stay behind because others won't go.
- ii. HIDE if unable to evacuate. Find a location to hide where the active shooter is less likely to see you. Your hiding place should:
  1. Be out of the active shooter's view.
  2. Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.
  3. Not trap you or restrict your options for movement.
  4. To prevent and active shooter from entering your hiding place: lock and barricade doors, turn off lights, close blinds, turn off radios or other sound emitting devices, silence cell phones, keep out of sight and take adequate cover (concrete walls, thick desks, filing cabinets) and remain quiet.
  5. Remain in place until given an all-clear by identifiable law enforcement.
  6. If evacuation and hiding are not possible: remain calm, dial 911 to alert police to active shooter's location (if you cannot speak, leave line open and allow dispatcher to listen).
- iii. FIGHT- as a last resort. Fight when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:
  1. Acting as aggressively as possible against the shooter.
  2. Throwing items and improvising weapons.
  3. Yelling.
  4. Committing to your actions.

### 3. External Procedure

- a. Gather members of the IMT at the ICC (Incident Command Center) and inform them of the situation. Share information including descriptions of the individual, vehicle, etc. Make plans to "lockdown" and contact police immediately if the person is seen on the property or in the immediate area.
  - b. Lockdown procedures:
    - i. All entrance doors and windows locked to the extent possible.
    - ii. Curtains/blinds closed.
- ### 4. Responding when law enforcement arrives:
- a. Remain calm and follow office instructions.
  - b. Put down any items in your hands.
  - c. Immediately raise your hands and spread your fingers.
  - d. Keep hands visible at all times.
  - e. Avoid making quick movements towards officers.
  - f. Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling.

- g. Do not stop officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which the officers are entering the premises.
  - h. Information to provide to officers:
    - i. Location of active shooter, if known.
    - ii. Number of shooters.
    - iii. Physical description of shooters.
    - iv. Number and type of weapons.
    - v. Number of potential victims.
    - vi. Number of staff members on duty.
    - vii. Number of residents in facility.
    - viii. Number of visitors/vendors in facility.
5. Departmental responsibilities:
- a. Administrator/Designee:
    - i. Ensure that 911 has been called.
    - ii. Ensure that a code Active Shooter has been announced when able and has included a specific location.
    - iii. For incidents external to the building, institute building “lockdown” with a focus on preventing people from exiting the building into harm’s way.
    - iv. For incidents internal to the building, secure doors if possible, to prevent additional people from entering the building into harm’s way. However, do not post staff at doors.
    - v. Establish the ICC when the situation permits. Ideally the ICC will have access to the cameras to visualize where the active shooter is.
    - vi. Provide a facility liaison to the police department at the police command post or alternate location as requested.
    - vii. Provide for resident, staff and visitor accountability to the extent possible.
    - viii. Report any missing persons to police.
    - ix. If necessary, contact staff on next shift and provide information based on police guidance.
    - x. Make provisions to notify families/responsible parties of and casualties or injuries.
    - xi. At the direction of the police, an “Active Shooter All Clear” will be announced. All effected personnel will be contacted immediately and debriefed.
    - xii. Establish and off-site media center in conjunction with police.
    - xiii. When appropriate, ensure the following notifications are made to: off duty staff, resident families/responsible parties, local/state Department of Health.
    - xiv. Consider need for off-site reunification center where residents, visitors and staff can be picked up.
  - b. Maintenance responsibilities:
    - i. Prevent others from entering as area where the active shooter may be.

- ii. Secure doors, if appropriate to isolate incident.
- iii. Secure building entrances and exits. Focus on keeping people from entering the building for internal incidents and from leaving the building for external incidents.
- iv. Meet responding police and provide them with the incident location, number of shooters, number of victims, type and number of weapons being used, individuals still in the area, identity and description of the shooter(s), if possible.
- v. Be prepared to provide floor plans and keys to responding police officers.
- vi. Be prepared to shut down utilities as requested by police.
- vii. Identify phone extensions in the closest proximity of the shooter/hostage taker and provide to police.
- viii. Identify internal door locking systems and provide access information to police.
- ix. Identify surveillance and recording systems monitoring the area of the incident. Provide to police.

6. Initial Recovery Operations

- a. Keep the scene secure. Follow police instructions.
  - i. Isolate and protect the scene and evidence.
  - ii. Do not alter the scene or try to investigate the crime or incident. The police will provide you with actions/procedures to follow.
- b. Document everything while it is still fresh in your mind.
- c. Utilize Nursing, Social Work and Pastoral Care staff to assess, treat and calm persons involved in the incident.
- d. Post-incident critical stress debriefing should take place. Consider using and EAP.
- e. All persons involved in the incident should remain available to talk to the police.

**Hazard Annex B: Winter Storm/Severe Weather**

**Blizzard/ Weather Emergency**

Approved by: Best Practice Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE	2/2023	MODULE	Management of Environment of Care Emergency Preparedness
REVIEW CYCLE	August	JCAHO STANDARD	
REVISION DATE	SEQUENCE NUMBER	8.2.13.3	

**STANDARD:**

Blizzard - a severe snowstorm with high winds and low visibility.

**POLICY:**

All emergency and safety procedures will be followed in the event of a blizzard or other weather-related occurrence. The facility staff in conjunction with corporate support will provide/arrange dispatch, staff transportation services and onsite assistance as needed/practicable. State, county and/or local emergency services will be contacted for assistance as indicated.

**PROCEDURE:****1. Dispatchers**

- a. Facility staff in conjunction with corporate administrative assistants/designees will serve as central dispatchers. The dispatchers will assign team members to facilities prior to weather event and communicate to all.
- b. Dispatch will text drivers the phone number including area code and provide complete address.

**2. Incident Commander (IC)**

- a. The Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for all aspects of the response, including developing incident objectives and managing all incident operations.
- b. If the storm requires the incident command center to be activated, the incident commander:
  - Assesses the situation
  - Establish immediate priorities especially related to the safety of residents, emergency responders and any other individuals affected by the incident in question; such as staff assignments, shifts and schedules.
- c. The incident commander continues until relieved or the situation has been stabilized

**3. Emergency Staffing**

- a. Essential staff who arrive early to ensure they are on site when needed will be compensated at time and half.
- b. Compensation associated with delaying the release of a staff member at the end of their shift to keep them on site will be provided at time and a half.
- c. Paying for sleep time will be provided at straight time pay.
- d. Staff member incentive will be provided for those who work for the duration by a flat rate per day in addition to pre-determined compensation or prorated Storm Coverage holiday hours.
- e. Transportation to/from the facility will be provided as able. Snow mobile transportation may be utilized if available in the area of the storm.
- f. Cots, sleeping arrangements and showering space for staff will be established by facility Administrator/designee.
- g. Toiletry/hygiene items will be provided to staff as needed.
- h. Charging stations and extra phone chargers will be provided so that staff can keep in touch with their families during the storm.
- i. As able, child care will be arranged during work hours if needed for staff members with young/school age children.

**4. Parking Lot Safety**

- a. The facility staff in conjunction with corporate environmental services team/designee will provide plow service communication and coordination. They will ensure there is a clear path in/out of parking lots and the facility.
- b. Plowing and snow removal of the lots will not be a priority at the height of the storm.

**5. Food Supply**

- a. Simple staff meals will be planned and provided as needed. Disposable eating supplies may be used.
- b. An emergency supply of pre-portioned fruits, juices etc. will be on hand so that in the event of blizzard, time is not spent portioning foods.

## 6. DOH Notification

a. The Department of Health will be notified of any loss of essential services and/or emergency conditions as indicated.

### Hazard Annex C: Coastal Storms/Hurricanes

*Coastal storms and hurricanes may arrive as tropical depressions (maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less), tropical storms (maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph), or hurricanes (maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or more, ranging from Category 1-5). Hazards associated with coastal storms include: flooding; flying debris; extreme winds and tornados; torrential rain; and power outages due to downed trees and power lines.*

1. Administrator or designee will make rounds to ensure normal operation, safety precautions and to check for flooding and damage.
2. Stay away from windows and outside walls. Evacuate residents to corridors, close doors, and shut down utilities.
3. If flooding occurs, Maintenance will remove by extractor.
4. Supplies will be placed in area where flooding does not occur.

If there is a hurricane WATCH OR WARNING we will:

1. Ensure that the Dietary Department has a three (3) day supply of food.
2. Run a full load test on the generator.
3. Check all resident medications to ensure that there is a three (3) day supply.
4. Ensure that there is a three (3) day supply of all essential nursing supplies.
5. Move equipment to alternate areas, if necessary. Check and secure all outside items, (i.e. tables, chairs, etc) Check all gutters and roof drains.
6. Ensure that we have a three (3) day supply of linen. Ensure that we have on hand extra blankets.
7. Ensure that alternate means of storage is designated in case of flooding.
8. Buy all necessary emergency equipment, (flashlights, tape, batteries, etc.)
9. Review Disaster Manual and emergency evacuation procedure.

### Hazard Annex D: Intentionally Left Blank

### Hazard Annex E: Earthquake

*Earthquakes cannot be predicted and are considered “no-notice” incidents. Hazards associated with earthquakes include: tsunami (flooding); power outages; fires, and landslides.*

A general approach to be followed in the event of an earthquake is as follows:

1. Remain calm. Do not panic or run through or outside the building. The greatest point of danger is just outside doorways and close to outer structure walls due to the hazard of falling debris.
2. If you are in the building, remain where you are. If possible, take cover under a desk, table, or bench, or in doorways, hallways, or against inside walls. These areas are the most sound structurally during an earthquake.
- . Keep visitors, patients, and other employees out of stairwells and elevators.
4. Instruct residents in beds to remain in their beds.
5. Reassure and assist patients and visitors.
6. Do not abandon your residents.
7. If you are outside, stay away from the building. Stay clear of walls, electric poles, downed wires, and trees. Check all utilities and electrical equipment and use telephones only for emergencies.
8. Encourage everyone to remain in place for a few minutes after the initial shock as aftershocks may occur.
9. Above all, use good judgement.
10. Following the earthquake employees shall assess damages specific to their assigned areas and report all hazards to their supervisor. This information shall be reported to the Incident Commander for reevaluation and corrective action as needed.
11. Shut down gas service at all meter locations until utility technicians can inspect and determine it is safe to reenergize the system.

### **Hazard Annex F: Extreme Cold**

*Extreme cold can occur independent of any snow, ice, or storm systems. Extreme cold events involve an extended period with temperatures at or below 32°F. The risk to health and personal safety during extreme cold is exacerbated by utility service interruption or loss. Therefore, the facility maintains its building systems ahead of any extreme weather projections. The facility acknowledges and prepares for the possibility of short staffing due to road conditions.*

- Activate facility's CEMP and Facility Incident Commander (IC) if warranted.
- Assess residents for signs of distress and/or discomfort.
- Conserve heat wherever possible by closing doors and set air handling units to recirculate indoor air instead of using 100% outside air.
- Initiate actions to safely increase resident comfort, e.g., provide additional blankets and/or keeping residents in their rooms with the doors closed to retain heat (be sure to carefully monitor the temperature of residents); offer warm liquids (keeping in mind relevant dietary modifications/restrictions), etc. Contact vendors for additional supplies/equipment if appropriate.
- Do not leave residents unattended near a heat source.

- If the internal temperature of the facility remains low and potentially jeopardizes the safety and health of residents, consider re-location to a warmer part of the facility (i.e. sun side of the building) or evacuation to another facility.

### **Hazard Annex G: Extreme Heat**

*Extreme heat events are defined as periods when the heat index is 100°F or higher for one or more days, or when the heat index is 95°F or higher for two or more consecutive days. Prolonged periods of this heat accompanied by high humidity create a dangerous situation for vulnerable populations. Elderly residents and those with chronic medical conditions such as cardiopulmonary conditions, high blood pressure and residents with mental illness are at increased risk for heat exhaustion, heat stroke and heat cramps.*

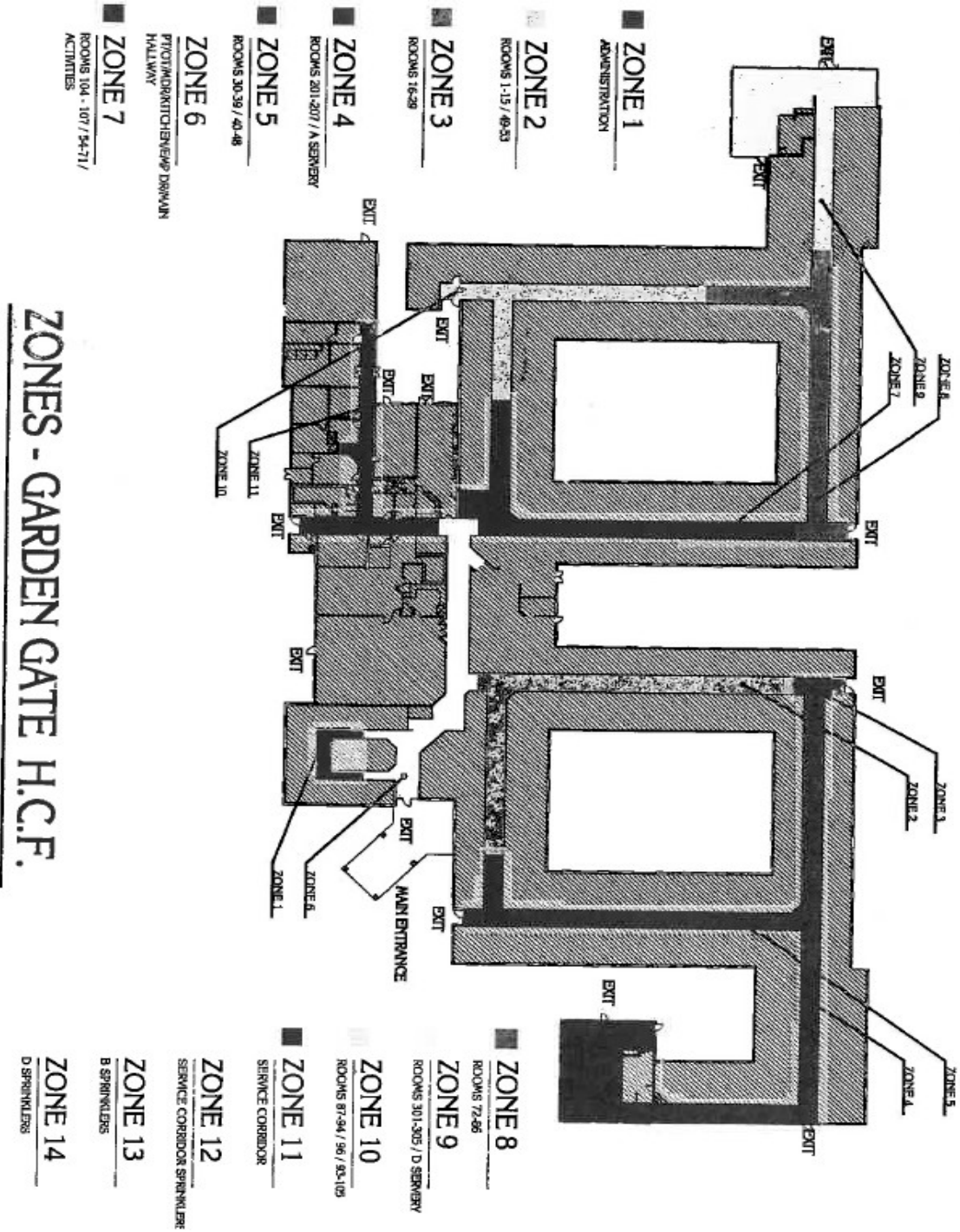
- Activate facility's CEMP and Facility Incident Commander (IC) if warranted.
- Assess residents for signs of distress and/or discomfort.
- Call 9-1-1 if any resident appears to be suffering from heat-related illness such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- Consider re-locating residents to a cooler part of the facility (i.e. shaded side of building or lower floors in the case of multistory facilities)
- If the outdoor temperature is cooler than the internal facility temperature, consider opening windows and using fans to bring cooler air into the building. If the outdoor temperature is not cooler, keep the windows closed and shades drawn.
- Set air handling units to recirculate indoor air instead of using 100% outside air.
- If the internal temperature of the facility remains high and potentially jeopardizes the safety and health of residents, consider evacuation to another facility.
- Provide cool washcloths and cooling fans for air circulation.
- Encourage residents to drink fluids to maintain hydration.

### **Hazard Annex H: Fire**

Fires may occur within the facility or may be a result of external fire activity.

### Fire Procedures

#### Fire Zones



**ZONES - GARDEN GATE H.C.F.**

**IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE:**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone, placing residents into rooms.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area.

**NOTES:**

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.
4. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

**II.. RESPONSE TO THE ALARM****OR HEARING "CODE RED" BEING CALLED OUT****A. Staff in the Immediate Area:**

- Assist in the **evacuation** of the fire room and close the door to the fire room.
- **Close doors** and windows to remaining rooms in the fire zone, placing residents into safe rooms
- **Clear corridor** of equipment - **Do not** place equipment into occupied resident rooms

- Turn off fans.

**B. Receptionist (8 a.m. - 8 p.m.) / Nursing Supervisor (other times):**

- **Page** location of fire
- Place back-up **phone call** to the fire department (911)

NOTE: If you are notified by telephone (and no fire alarm was sounded) - notify/send someone to the area to pull the fire alarm.

**C. Receptionist (8a.m. – end of work shift) / Nursing Supervisor (end of reception shift – 8 a.m.)**

- Meet the fire department and inform them of the entry door that will bring them directly into the fire area without going against the resident evacuation flow, per facility floor plan.

**D. Administrator, Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing, Director of Education, Maintenance, Nursing Supervisor:**

- **Respond** to the fire area

**E. Nursing Staff:**

- Respond to resident care area fires as follows:

All Shifts: 1 Nurse and 1 CNA should respond from each non-fire unit. Designated Nurse and CNA will be assigned as Unit responders at the beginning of each and every shift on a daily basis.

**F. (11 p.m. - 7 a.m.) Nursing Supervisor and Predetermined Designee:**

- Respond to alarms originating from non-resident areas

**G. Nursing Supervisor/DON:**

- Act as Incident Commander and activate the facility's Incident Command System (ICS) in the

Administrator's absence.

- Set up **Control Station**. The Control Station will be responsible for directing additional staff to the fire area or to other areas within the building, as necessary. The Control Station will be located as follows:

Resident Care Area: nearest nurse's station

Non-resident Care Area: front lobby

- Verify headcount of residents and staff evacuated from the fire area. Report results to the Command Post (Administrator/Fire Chief).
- Communication with Command Post will take place by means of telephones

#### **H. Administrator:**

- Act as Incident Commander and activate the facility's Incident Command System (ICS) as per facility ICS policy.
  - Establish a **Command Post** if evacuation of rooms other than the fire room is taking place. The Administrative Command Post will be set up at the fire department's Incident Command Post location.
- Verify that a headcount of residents and staff has taken place from the fire area. Inform the Incident Commander of the results.

NOTE: Communication between the Control Station and the Command Post will take place by means of telephone

**I. All Other Staff:**

- Follow department-specific procedures.

**III... EXTENDED EVACUATION:****A. GENERAL CONCEPT:**

- First stage of resident evacuation will be horizontally past the fire/smoke door.
- Non-resident departments will evacuate to the department's designated assembly point.
- If evacuation of the floor or building is necessary, this shall take place from the non-fire side of the building, using the exit farthest from the fire. Building evacuation will be a fire department/administrative decision.
- See Department-Specific Procedures

**B. FIRE IN RESIDENT CARE AREAS:**

Evacuation of the remaining rooms in the smoke compartment should take place at the decision of the Incident Commander. All residents must have been removed from the corridor and all room doors closed. Evacuation should only take place if:

- a) The fire has **not** been extinguished

**AND**

- b) There is **little** or **no** smoke in the corridor

If directed to evacuate by the Incident Commander:

- The staff members will begin evacuating the rooms on both sides of the fire room first, followed by the room across from the fire room. This will be followed by the remaining rooms in the compartment

- The residents will be moved to the adjacent side of the fire/smoke barrier doors, per the evacuation direction diagram.

## Departmental Fire Procedures

### Activities

If you discover a fire on your area:

**Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.

- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone, placing residents into rooms.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area.

### NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Report fire to the person in charge. Go to your assembly point.
3. Oxygen shut-down: shut off the oxygen at the wall supply (by removing the flow meter) or turning portable tank valve to off position.
4. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

5. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.

**II... ASSEMBLY POINT: MAIN DINING ROOM**

NOTE: Upon arrival at evacuation site, the person in charge of the department shall verify that all staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

**III... IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- Remain with any residents behind a closed door and reassure them. Await further instructions.
- Be prepared to potentially receive residents from the Dining Room.

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES****ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

**(ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, ADMISSIONS, BUSINESS OFFICE,  
PAYROLL, MEDICAL RECORDS, RESIDENT CARE COORDINATOR,  
STAFFING COORDINATOR)**

**I.. IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE IN YOUR AREA**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
  
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
  
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone.
  
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area. .

## NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
  
2. Report fire to the person in charge. Go to your assembly point.
  
3. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

4. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.

## **II. .. ASSEMBLY POINT: MAIN DINING ROOM**

NOTE: Upon arrival at evacuation site, the person in charge of the department shall verify that all staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

## **III. .. IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- Remain at the reception area and await further instructions.
  
- Remain with any residents in the Solarium and reassure them.

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES**  
**DIETARY DEPARTMENT**

**I.. IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE IN YOUR AREA**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area. .

NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Report fire to the person in charge. Go to your assembly point.
3. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.
4. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

**II.. ASSEMBLY POINT: MAIN DINING ROOM**

NOTE: Upon arrival at evacuation site, the person in charge of the department shall verify that all staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

**III. .. IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- Shut-down kitchen cooking equipment
- Close doors in the area
- Report to the Main Dining Room and await further instructions

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES  
LAUNDRY DEPARTMENT / PRINT SHOP**

**I.. IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE IN YOUR AREA**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area. .

NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Report fire to the person in charge. Go to your assembly point.
3. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.
4. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

**II.. ASSEMBLY POINT: MAIN DINING ROOM**

NOTE: Upon arrival at evacuation site, the person in charge of the department shall verify that all staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

**III. .. IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- Shut down laundry equipment.
- Close doors in your area
- Report to the Main Dining Room and await further instructions.

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES**  
**MAINTENANCE**

**I.. IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE IN YOUR AREA**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area. .

NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.
3. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

**II.. EVACUATION SITE FOR MAINTENANCE OFFICE STAFF - MAIN DINING ROOM**

Upon arrival at the evacuation site, conduct a headcount to verify that all staff are accounted for. Give results to the Incident Commander.

**III. .. AT THE SOUND OF ALARM**

- Report to the fire location
- Assist in closing doors and clearing halls
- Assist in evacuating residents, as directed by the person in charge of the area
- Shut down utilities, as directed by the fire department.

NOTE: Do not shut off oxygen and other medical gases until conferring with Charge Nurse/Sub-Acute Coordinator.

- **DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES**

**NURSING**

**I.. IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE IN YOUR AREA**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone, placing residents into rooms.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area. .

**NOTES:**

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.
3. **Oxygen shut-down:**
  - a. When a fire scene involves oxygen in use, staff nurses shut off the oxygen at the wall supply (by removing the flow meter) or turning portable tank valve to off position.
  - b. Main valve for emergency OXYGEN AND VACUUM is shut off per direction of the Fire Department, Administrator, or Incident Commander.
4. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

## **II. .. IF EVACUATION OF THE AREA IS ORDERED**

*This is to be done under the direction of the Incident Commander.*

1. Residents from the fire compartment to be moved to the adjacent side of the fire/smoke doors, per evacuation diagram.
2. The rooms adjacent to the fire room shall be evacuated first, followed by the room opposite the fire room. The remaining rooms in the compartment shall then be evacuated.

### **SEE ATTACHED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT GUIDELINE.**

4. Following the evacuation, verify that all residents/staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

## **III. .. IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- Respond to **resident care area** fires as follows:

All Shifts: 1 Nurse and 1 CNA should respond from each non-fire unit. Designated Nurse and CNA will be assigned as Unit responders at the beginning of each and every shift on a daily basis.

- Staff remaining are to place residents in rooms, closing doors and windows. Clear equipment from corridors. Do not place equipment into occupied resident rooms.
- For alarms originating in non-resident areas between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., the Nursing Supervisor and 1 pre-designated nursing department employee will respond.

**NOTE:** If you are out of your normally assigned work area at the time of the alarm, return as quickly as possible.

## **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN PROCEDURES**

Catheter drainage bag: Place drainage bag on resident.

Option: Disconnect catheter from drainage tubing.

CPM exercise machine: Disconnect from electrical outlet.

Feeding pump assembly: Remove tubing from pump. Remove bag from pole and place next to resident.

Option: Disconnect feeding line from NG-tube or G-tube.

IV: Clamp line or leave it open (at the discretion of the nurse). Remove bag from pole and place on bed.

IV with pump:

**If pump is not needed:**

Remove IV tubing from pump. Remove bag from pole and place on bed.

**If pump must be taken:**

Option 1: Disconnect pump from electrical outlet, remove pump and bag from pole and place on bed.

Option 2: Disconnect pump from electrical outlet and move pole with bed.

Oxygen: Shut off flowmeter and remove mask or cannula from resident.

Option: Pull line off flowmeter.

**OR**

Disconnect flowmeter from wall outlet and take with resident. This is based on time available and ease of removing the flowmeter from the wall connection.

Restraints: Cut or untie straps, or remove restraint from resident.

Suction: Disconnect line from top of suction canister.

Traction: If bed needs to be lowered, do so while breaking down medical equipment - **before** unplugging bed. If traction assembly will not fit through the door, unfasten or cut ropes and remove resident from bed.

**CHARGE NURSES****I.. IF THE FIRE IS ON YOUR UNIT**

## A. Ensure that:

- Fire room has been evacuated
- Door(s) to fire room have been closed
- Fire alarm has been activated and a page made identifying the fire location
- All residents have been removed from hall and doors closed
- All equipment has been removed from the hall (not placed in occupied rooms)

## B. Make decision regarding further evacuation, using the following guidelines:

- If fire **has** been extinguished, no further evacuation is necessary. Have staff reassure residents.
  
- If corridor smoke conditions would **not** be tolerable for residents, do not evacuate. Inform fire department of smoke concerns upon their arrival.
  
- If fire has **not** been extinguished and corridor conditions **are** tolerable, begin evacuation as follows:
  1. Residents from the fire compartment to be moved to the adjacent side of the fire/smoke doors, per evacuation diagram.
  
  2. Have staff evacuate the rooms adjacent to the fire room first, followed by the room opposite the fire room. The remaining rooms in the compartment shall then be evacuated.
  
  3. Mark the door to the room with a red magnet to indicate that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.

4. Account for residents and staff once all are relocated. Report results to the Control Station.

NOTE: Charge nurse to direct removal of residents' charts to safe area.

Charge Nurse Procedures ..... cont.

**II.....IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- A. Direct appropriate staff to respond to fire area.
  
- B. Direct remaining staff in securing unit by putting residents into rooms, closing windows/doors, clearing halls, etc.
  
- C. Once unit is secured direct staff to make rapid rounds, checking on and reassuring residents.
  
- D. Upon hearing page indicating that alarm has originated from an area that evacuates to your particular unit, direct staff in preparing to receive residents by clearing space for arriving residents. Position one staff member at the entrance to the unit to direct staff arriving with evacuated residents to appropriate areas of receiving unit.
  
- E. Ensure initial care of residents who have been evacuated to your

**NURSING DIRECTOR/SUPERVISOR**

- A. Upon activation of the fire alarm, report immediately to the fire scene and ensure that nurse in charge of the fire area is carrying out his/her responsibilities.
  
- B. If the fire has not been extinguished, establish a Control Station at the nearest nurse's station. If the fire is in a nonresident area, establish Control Station at the front lobby.
  
- C. Send additional staff to the fire area, if necessary.

D. Ensure adequate staffing of other areas of the building, especially the area to which the residents are being evacuated.

E. Verify that each unit/department from the fire area has accounted for all residents/staff. Report results to the Command Post, along with any changes in conditions. The Command Post is with the Fire Chief.

F. Keep the non-fire areas informed of the situation, as applicable.

G. Notify off duty staff (Administration, Maintenance) as appropriate.

H. Ensure residents' charts have been removed to a safe area.

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES**  
**OT/PT DEPARTMENT**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone, placing residents into rooms.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area.

NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Report fire to the person in charge. Go to your assembly point.
3. **Oxygen shut-down:** shut off the oxygen at the wall supply (by removing the flow meter) or turning portable tank valve to off position.
4. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.
5. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.

**II.. ASSEMBLY POINT: MAIN DINING ROOM**

NOTE: Upon arrival at evacuation site, the person in charge of the department shall verify that all staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

### III. .. IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING

- Remain with any residents behind a closed door and reassure them. Await further instructions.
- Be prepared to potentially receive residents from the area of the fire.

#### ▪ DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES

##### PHYSICIANS / DENTISTS / RESPIRATORY THERAPIST/CONSULTANTS

**R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.

**A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.

**C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone, placing residents into rooms.

**E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area.

#### NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
2. Report fire to the person in charge. Go to your assembly point.

3. **Oxygen shut-down:** shut off the oxygen at the wall supply (by removing the flow meter) or turning portable tank valve to off position.
4. Mark the doors with a red magnet indicating that the room has been evacuated. Red magnets for this purpose are stored on the frame of each door.
5. Order of the above steps is somewhat flexible. However, the evacuation of the room's occupant(s) and confinement of the fire shall be the top priorities.

## **II... FOLLOW EVACUATION PROCEDURES FOR DEPARTMENT YOU ARE IN**

NOTE: Upon arrival at evacuation site, the person in charge of the department shall verify that all staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

## **III... IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- Remain with any residents behind a closed door and reassure them. Await further instructions.

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES**  
**SOCIAL WORK / SPEECH THERAPY /**  
**HOUSEKEEPING / BEAUTICIAN**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone, placing residents into rooms.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area.

NOTES:

1. If the fire is small and you know you can put it out **quickly**, do so using available sources (bed spread, blanket, sheet, fire extinguisher, etc.). Otherwise, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Shut the door and leave it closed. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
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NOTE: Upon arrival at evacuation site, the person in charge of the department shall verify that all staff are accounted for. Report results to the Incident Commander.

**III... IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING**

- Remain with any residents behind a closed door and reassure them. Await further instructions.

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES**

**VISITORS**

During a fire alarm, visitors will be addressed as follows:

1. Staff persons (Receptionist/Security, etc) monitoring entrances will not allow any non staff persons into the facility until an all clear is heard.
2. Visitors with residents will remain with them until an all clear has sounded or staff guide you to a safe area.
3. Visitors other than family members shall be asked to leave the building until the alarm is all clear.
4. Staff members who arrive early and are not clocked in shall be considered visitors.

**DEPARTMENTAL FIRE PROCEDURES**

**VOLUNTEERS / STUDENTS**

**I... IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE IN YOUR AREA**

- R. Rescue** anyone in the room while calling out "Code Red, location..." for assistance. Close the door to the fire room and any room connecting doors. Place the orange "fire" tag on the door to signify the 'fire room'. Orange "fire" tags are located in every fire extinguisher cabinet.
- A. Alarm** - activate the fire alarm. Page the fire location.
- C. Confine** the fire by closing all remaining doors and windows in the fire zone, placing residents into rooms.
- E. Evacuate** to the nearest safe area. .

## II. .. IF ALARM SOUNDS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING

- Go to the person in charge of the area where you are and await further instructions.

### **Hazard Annex I: Flood**

*Floods may be the result of coastal, lake, river, inland, or indoor flooding.*

This facility is prepared to respond to a flood. This includes in-service staff training and flood related disaster planning.

1. Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States can experience some degree of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws.
2. Most floods develop slowly over a period of days. Flash floods, however, are like walls of water that develop in a matter of minutes. Flash floods can be caused by intense storms or dam failure.
3. Flood Watch – Flooding is possible. Tune to local radio and television stations for additional information.
4. Flood Warning – Flooding is already occurring or will occur soon. Take precautions at once. Be prepared to go to higher ground. If advised, evacuate immediately.

**Emergency flood proofing measures that can be implemented if necessary. Facility Incident Commander will determine if and/or when these measures will be enacted.**

1. Building walls with sandbags.
2. Constructing a double row of walls with boards and posts to create a “crib,” then filling the “crib” with soil.
3. Constructing a single wall by stacking small beams or planks on top of each other.
4. Evaluating the need for backup systems, such as:
  1. Portable pumps to remove flood water.
  2. Alternate power sources such as generators or gasoline-powered pumps.
  3. Battery-powered emergency lighting.
5. Activate the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage the incident. The most qualified staff member (in regard to the Incident Command System) on duty at the time assumes the Incident Commander position.
6. Notify the Administrator and Director of Nursing if they are not on the premises.
7. Facility Incident Management Team report to the Incident Command Post for a briefing and instructions.
8. The Incident Commander decides whether to flood proof (see emergency flood proofing measures above) or evacuate based on geographical location and history of flooding of the facility.
9. Coordinate all internal emergency operations with the local authorities. They will be able to quickly assist in controlling the situation provided that a good line of communication is established between them and the Incident Commander.
10. Once the flood watch/warning has been cancelled and the Incident Commander has determined the dangerous situation has passed, emergency operations can begin to disengage.
11. Only declare the situation “under control” after the local authorities have concluded emergency operations and the Incident Commander has declared the situation “safe.”
12. Account for all residents and staff members.

## Hazard Annex J: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE)

*CBRNE incidents occur when a hazardous substance is released into the environment, causing potential harm to the staff and residents of the facility. CBRNE emergencies are particularly dangerous for facilities, as populations are typically confined indoors with compromised health and immune systems. Released toxic substances, even in small amounts, can further weaken the health and well-being of residents.*

1. A **chemical disaster** is any in which harmful vapors or toxic vapors become airborne.
2. A **biological disaster** is any in which biological (bacteria, virus, spores) are released into the air.
3. A **nuclear/radiological disaster** is any in which nuclear contaminants become airborne.

The highest-ranking person currently in the facility, should be notified immediately when the facility is informed of the threat of a possible chemical or nuclear disaster. The facility would be notified by the police or fire department. The highest ranking member will assume the role of Incident Commander and will activate the ICS (Incident Command System)

Safety measures should be taken immediately upon notification of threat.

1. A command post may be established at the reception desk in the front lobby or any other appropriate area designated by the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will assemble the Incident Management Team and begin to implement safety measures as follows:
  - a) Close all windows tightly and lock them;
  - b) Turn off all exhaust fans and air conditions.
  - c) Close and lock all doors leading in or out of the building. Once closed, the doors should be sealed with silver duct tape, which is kept in the Maintenance Shop.
  - d) Assure that any resident with any breathing disorder has access to an oxygen tank.
  - e) Seal interior hallway doors of the boiler room and the generator room with the silver duct tape.
  - f) Do not allow anyone in or out of the building until the condition has cleared.
2. The Incident Commander shall assign personnel to:
  - a. Assist on resident units, if necessary
  - b. Close all windows and doors
  - c. Assist in sealing the required doors
  - d. Assist in getting extra oxygen tanks on the units.
3. To obtain information on the status of the condition, call the local Disaster Preparedness Office and/or monitor news broadcasts on radio and television.

4. After notification of the condition clearing, announce an “All Clear”.
5. Evaluation the facility to find if anyone in the facility is having respiratory distress. If necessary, that person may have to be sent to a hospital for further evaluation.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

Once a disaster is declared and the doors are locked and sealed, no one (staff, volunteers, visitors nor neighbors) will be allowed to enter nor leave the facility until the condition has cleared and has been declared under control by the Local City Officials or other appropriate government agency.

## **Hazard Annex K: Infectious Disease**

*Infectious diseases are caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi. The circumstances of infectious disease emergencies, including ones that rise to the level of a pandemic, vary by multiple factors, including type of biological agent, scale of exposure, mode of transmission and intentionality.*

*The facility follows effective strategies for preventing infectious diseases. Each county Local Health Department-(LHD) has prevention agenda priorities compiled from community health assessments that can be reviewed and utilized by the facility in fully developing your CEMP Annex E, planning and response checklist for infectious disease and pandemic situations. The information within this Annex includes the identified priorities and focus areas.*

### **Communicable Disease Reporting:**

- NYSDOH is charged with the responsibility of protecting public health and ensuring the safety of health care facilities.
- Reporting is required to detect intra-facility outbreaks, geographic trends, and identify emerging infectious diseases.
- The collection of outbreak data enables the NYSDOH to inform health care facilities of potential risks and preventive actions.
- Reporting facilities can obtain consultation, laboratory support and on-site assistance in outbreak investigations, as needed.

### What must be reported?

NYSDOH Regulated Article 28 nursing homes:

- Reporting of suspected or confirmed communicable diseases is mandated under the New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR 2.10), as well as by 10 NYCRR 415.19.
- Any outbreak or significant increase in nosocomial infections above the norm or baseline in nursing home residents or employees must be reported to NYSDOH. This can be done electronically via the Nosocomial Outbreak Reporting Application (NORA). NORA is a NYSDOH Health Commerce System Application. Alternately, facilities may fax an [Infection Control Nosocomial Report Form \(DOH 4018\)](#) on the DOH public website.
  - Facilities are expected to conduct surveillance that is adequate to identify background rates and detect significant increases above those rates. Healthcare associated infection outbreaks may also be reported to the LHD.

A single case of a reportable communicable disease or any unusual disease (defined as a newly apparent or emerging disease or syndrome that could possibly be caused by a transmissible infectious agent or microbial toxin) must be reported to the local health department (LHD) where the patient/resident resides. In addition, if the reportable communicable disease is suspected or confirmed to be acquired at the NYSDOH regulated Article 28 nursing home, it must also be reported to the NYSDOH. This can be done electronically via the NORA, or, by faxing an [Infection Control Nosocomial Report Form \(DOH 4018\)](#).

- Reports must be made to the local health department in the county in which the facility is located (as the resident's place of residence) and need to be submitted within 24 hours of diagnosis. However, some diseases warrant prompt action and should be reported immediately by phone.
- Categories and examples of reportable healthcare-associated infections include:
  - An outbreak or increased incidence of disease due to any infectious agent (e.g. staphylococci, vancomycin resistant enterococci, Pseudomonas, Clostridioides difficile, Klebsiella, Acinetobacter) occurring in residents or in persons working in the facility.
  - Intra-facility outbreaks of influenza, gastroenteritis, pneumonia, or respiratory syncytial virus.
  - Foodborne outbreaks.
  - Infections associated with contaminated medications, replacement fluids, or commercial products.
  - Single cases of healthcare-associated infection due to any of the diseases on the Communicable Disease Reporting list. For example, single cases of nosocomial acquired Legionella, measles virus, invasive group A beta hemolytic Streptococcus.
  - A single case involving Staphylococcus aureus showing reduced susceptibility to vancomycin.
  - Clusters of tuberculin skin test conversions.

- A single case of active pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis in a nursing home resident or employee.
- Increased or unexpected morbidity or mortality associated with medical devices, practices or procedures resulting in significant infections and/or hospital admissions.
- Closure of a unit or service due to infections.
- Additional information for making a communicable disease report:
  - Facilities should contact their NYSDOH regional epidemiologist or the NYSDOH Central Office Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Control Program for general questions and infection control guidance or if additional information is needed about reporting to NORA. Contact information for NYSDOH regional epidemiologists and the Central Office Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Control Program is located here: [https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/infection/regional\\_epi\\_staff.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/infection/regional_epi_staff.htm). For assistance after hours, nights and weekends, call New York State Watch Center (Warning Point) at 518-292-2200.
  - Call your local health department or the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at (518) 473-4439 or, after hours, at 1 (866) 881-2809; to obtain reporting forms (DOH-389), call (518) 474-0548.
  - For facilities in New York City:
    - Call 1 (866) NYC-DOH1 (1-866-692-3641) for additional information.
    - Use the [downloadable Universal Reporting Form \(PD-16\)](#); those belonging to NYC MED can [complete and submit the form online](#).

### **PEP Communication Requirements**

As per the requirements of the PEP, a facility must develop external notification procedures directed toward authorized family members and guardians of residents.

To adequately address this requirement, the facility will need to develop a record of all authorized family members and guardians, which should include secondary (back-up) authorized contacts, as applicable.

Under the PEP, facilities must include plans and/or procedures that would enable them to (1) provide a daily update to authorized family members and guardians and upon a change in a resident's condition; and (2) update all residents and authorized families and guardians at least once per week on the number of pandemic-related infections and deaths, including residents with a pandemic-related infection who pass away for reasons other than such infection (e.g., COVID positive residents who pass away for reasons other than COVID-19).

Such updates must be provided electronically or by such other means as may be selected by each authorized family member or guardian. This includes a method to provide all residents with daily access, at no cost, to remote videoconference or equivalent communication methods with family members and guardians.

### **PEP Infection Control Requirements**

In addition to communication-related PEP requirements address above, the facility must develop pandemic infection control plans for staff, residents, and families, including plans for (1) developing

supply stores and specific plans to maintain, or contract to maintain, at least a two-month (60 day) supply of personal protective equipment based on facility census, including consideration of space for storage; and (2) hospitalized residents to be admitted or readmitted to such residential health care facility or alternate care site after treatment, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to 10 NYCRR 415.3(i)(3)(iii), 415.19, and 415.26(i); 42 CFR 483.15(e) and 42 CFR § 483.80.

Additional infection control planning and response efforts and that should be addressed include:

- Incorporating lessons learned from previous pandemic responses into planning efforts to assist with the development of policies and procedures related to such elements as the management of supplies and PPE, as well as implementation of infection control protocols to assist with proper use and conservation of PPE.
- All personal protective equipment necessary for both residents and staff in order to continue to provide services and supports to residents. COVID-specific guidance on optimizing PPE and other supply strategies is available on CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>. Supplies to be maintained include, but are not limited to:
  - N95 respirators;
  - Face shield;
  - Eye protection;
  - Gowns/isolation gowns;
  - gloves;
  - masks; and
  - sanitizers and disinfectants ([EPA Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)):

Other considerations to be included in a facility's plans to reduce transmission regard when there are only one or a few residents with the pandemic disease in a facility:

- Plans for cohorting, including:
  - Use of a part of a unit, dedicated floor, or wing in the facility or a group of rooms at the end of the unit, such as at the end of a hallway.
  - Discontinue any sharing of a bathroom with residents outside the cohort
- Proper identification of the area for residents with COVID-19, including demarcating reminders for healthcare personnel; and
- Procedures for preventing other residents from entering the area.

### **Other PEP Requirements**

PEP further requires that facilities include a plan for preserving a resident's place at the facility when the resident is hospitalized. Such plan must comply with all applicable State and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to 18 NYCRR 505.9(d)(6) and 42 CFR 483.15(e).

### **Facility PEP Structure and Details**

The organization uses a coordinated process to reduce the risks of endemic and epidemic nosocomial infections in residents and health care workers.

#### **Policy & Procedure Regarding General Infection Control:**

The primary purposes of this facility's infection prevention and control program (IPCP) is to establish guidelines to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

Perform surveillance investigation and monitoring to present the onset and spread of infection;

- A. The facility establishes an infection prevention and control program (IPCP) that must follow accepted national standards and include, at a minimum, the following elements:
  1. A system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases for all residents, staff, volunteers, visitors, and other individuals providing services under a contractual arrangement based upon the facility assessment conducted according to § 483.70(e) and following accepted national standards;
  2. Written standards, policies, and procedures for the program, which must include, but are not limited to:
    - (i) A system of surveillance designed to identify possible communicable diseases or infections before they can spread to other persons in the facility;
    - (ii) When and to whom possible incidents of communicable disease or infections should be reported;
    - (iii) Standard and transmission-based precautions to be followed to prevent spread of infections;
    - (iv) When and how isolation should be used for a resident; including but not limited to:
      - (a) The type and duration of the isolation, depending upon the infectious agent or organism involved, and
      - (b) A requirement that the type and duration of isolation should be the least restrictive possible for the resident under the circumstances.
    - (v) The circumstances under which the facility must prohibit employees with a communicable disease or infected skin lesions from direct contact with residents or their food, if direct contact will transmit the disease;
    - (vi) The hand hygiene procedures to be followed by staff involved in direct resident contact; Alcohol Based handrub is preferred over soap and water in all clinical situations except when hands are visibility soiled, or after caring for residents with known or suspected C-difficile or norovirus during an outbreak; and

(vii) The education of staff, volunteers, visitors and other individuals providing services under a contractual arrangement on the IPC standards, policies and procedures.

3. Environmental cleaning and disinfection including the resident's care environment and shared care equipment with agents effective against identified organism or products on an EPA-registered microbial list.
  - a. The facility assures education provided to appropriate staff and access to adequate supplies/proper instruction for staff responsible for cleaning pieces of equipment.

4. An Antibiotic Stewardship Program that includes:
  - (i) Antibiotic use protocols
  - (ii) A system for monitoring antibiotic use
  - (iii) A system for recording incidents identified under the facility's IPCP and the corrective actions by the facility.

B. Infection Preventionist. The facility must designate a healthcare professional as the IP (the facility may designate more than one IP) who is responsible for the facility's IPCP. The IP must work at least part-time at the facility, and must have primary professional training in nursing, medical technology, microbiology, epidemiology or other related field and can be qualified by education, training, experience or certification.

C. IP participation on quality assessment and assurance committee. The individual designated as the IP must be a member of the facility's quality assessment and assurance committee and report to the committee on the IPCP on a regular basis.

D. The facility conducts an infection control risk assessment in accordance with infection control professional organizations. The assessment is reviewed annually and as needed and updated accordingly.

E. The IPCP is reviewed annually and analyzed to ensure the effectiveness of the IPCP and update the program as necessary.

- Procedure:**
1. Proper hand washing technique;
  2. An annual employee Health Screen;
  3. Maintain a safe, sanitary, & comfortable environment for personnel, residents, visitors, & the general public;
  4. General immunization screening for residents and employees;

5. Inservice education at the time of hire, annually, and as indicated by individual circumstances;
6. Establish guidelines to follow in the implementation of infection control precautions;
7. Establish guidelines to follow in implementing Standard and Transmission Precautions for the handling of blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes and nonintact skin;
8. Visitor restriction during cold/flu breakout within the community.
9. The State Department of Health will be notified of an outbreak within a facility.
10. Employees will be observed by supervisory personnel for cold symptoms, open lesions, appropriate dress code, and restrained hair.
11. Demonstrate proper storage, transport and handling of linen.
12. The Quality Improvement and the Infection Control Committees, have adopted these infection prevention and control policies and procedures. The policies as outlined herein best reflect the needs and operational requirements of this facility in the prevention of transmission of infections and communicable diseases as set forth in current OBRA, OSHA, and CDC guidelines and recommendations.

#### **Policy & Procedure Regarding Surveillance:**

The facility has an established system of surveillance designed to identify possible communicable diseases or infections before they can spread to other persons in the facility.

*“Surveillance” refers to the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data to identify infections and infection risks, to try to reduce morbidity and mortality and to improve resident health status.*

Surveillance consists of the following:

- When and to whom possible incidents of communicable diseases or infection should be reported.
- Collection of Data
- Identify possible communicable diseases or infection
- Determination of whether an infection is present (by use of criteria)
- Tabulation and consolidation of data
- Evaluation, analysis, and interpretation of data

- Dissemination of the above information to appropriate persons
- Establishment of standard and transmission-based precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

Surveillance usually focuses on the number of various types of infections in the facility (OUTCOME Surveillance) but may also include observation and evaluation of compliance with policies and procedures and other aspects of infection control which relate to the occurrence and spread of infection (PROCESS surveillance).

### 1. *Process Surveillance*

Process surveillance reviews practices directly related to resident care in order to identify whether the practices comply with established prevention and control procedures and policies based on recognized guidelines. Examples of this type of surveillance include monitoring of compliance with:

- Minimizes exposure to a potential source of infection;
- Uses appropriate hand hygiene prior to and after all procedures;<sup>12</sup>
- Ensures that appropriate sterile techniques are followed; for example, that staff:
  - Use sterile gloves, fluids, and materials, when indicated,<sup>13</sup> depending on the site and the procedure;<sup>14</sup>
  - Avoid contaminating sterile procedures;<sup>15</sup> and
  - Ensure that contaminated/non-sterile items are not placed in a sterile field.
- Uses Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when indicated;<sup>16</sup>
- Ensures that reusable equipment is appropriately cleaned, disinfected, or reprocessed; and
- Uses single-use medication vials and other single use items appropriately (proper disposal after every single use).

### 2. *Outcome Surveillance*

Outcome surveillance is designed to identify and report evidence of an infection. The process consists of collecting/documenting data on individual cases and comparing the collected data to standard written definitions (criteria) of infections. The IP or other designated staff reviews data (including residents with fever or purulent drainage, and cultures or other diagnostic test results consistent with potential infections) to detect clusters and trends. Other sources of relevant data may include antibiotic orders, laboratory antibiograms (antibiotic susceptibility profiles), medication regimen review reports, and medical record documentation such as physician progress notes and transfer summaries accompanying newly admitted residents.

Surveillance includes information on the following:

- Health Care associated Infections
- Infections/conditions present on admission to the facility.
- Infections/conditions present on readmission to the facility, but not present or incubating when the resident was transferred from the nursing home.

Surveillance includes information on infections in personnel as well as residents.

The criteria or definitions of infection for surveillance purposes are approved by the Quality Improvement Committee.

Concurrent, prospective surveillance is preferable rather than retrospective surveillance (review of residents' clinical records).

Surveillance data should be collected primarily from regular (at least once a week) rounds of resident care units. Additional information is gathered directly from resident care personnel. Other data may be derived from nurses' and physicians' notes, laboratory reports, medication records, and other parts of the residents' clinical record.

After analysis of the data, it should be used to plan infection control activities, detect outbreaks or epidemics, direct inservice education, and identify individual resident problems in need of intervention. The surveillance system enables the facility to analyze clusters and/or significant increases in the rate of infection.

Note: Facility layout documents may be used to record occurrence of clusters. Approaches may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Surveillance of all residents in the facility.
  - Infection rates are calculated periodically (monthly, quarterly, and yearly).
  - Rates are calculated as per determined annual threshold rates.
  - Surveillance provides threshold data.
  - Surveillance provides comparative data (e.g., comparison with previous months and seasons, comparison of resident care units).
  
2. Surveillance of microorganisms shown on cultures.
  - Not a good indicator of the number of infections in the facility.
  - Review and analysis of culture sensitivities may serve as an alert to a problem (e.g., multiresistant organisms, cross-contamination).
  
3. Surveillance of high risk residents
  - Residents with catheters, tracheostomies, tube feedings, IV's, open lesions, etc.
  - Immunocompromised residents.
  - Residents at high risk for skin problems.
  
4. Miscellaneous surveillance may serve as an alert to a problem.
  - Surveillance of residents being transferred to hospitals.
  - Surveillance of residents who have expired.

**Policy Regarding Handling of Linen:**

Linen and laundry is handled, stored and processed in a manner to prevent the spread of infection and contamination.

- Linen and laundry is handled, stored, processed and transported in a manner to prevent the spread of infection and contamination of clean linen.
- All linen collection & transport containers are labeled with a BIOHAZARD STICKER.

**Procedure for Standard Non-precaution Linen:**

*Soiled linen being laundered is handled in the following manner:*

1. Bins will be picked up from the soiled workroom and transported to laundry as per facility schedule.
2. The Nursing staff will sort soiled linen into the appropriate labeled bins:
3. Linen with bowel movement or other bulk substance should be rinsed immediately to prevent staining.
4. Prior to doing a scheduled collection run, laundry or maintenance personnel shall go to laundry and pick up a clean collection bin as needed and take it to the soiled workroom.
5. Bins and Barrels will be picked up from the soiled workroom and transported to laundry as per facility schedule.

**PROCEDURE for HAMPER SYSTEM:**

*Soiled linen being processed via the Hamper System is handled in the following manner:*

1. Each unit has a supply of bags for use in the Hamper System. Bags are replenished by Laundry personnel as needed.
2. The Nursing staff will sort soiled linen into the appropriate labeled hampers:
  - Sheets & pillow cases
  - Towels & washcloths.
  - Personal Clothing
  - Bibs

3. Nursing staff is to empty the hamper when no more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
4. The bags are tied and knotted prior to placing in the transport collection bin.
5. Nursing staff will then reline the hampers with clean bags.

### **Precaution Linen**

To prevent cross-contamination of infection to residents, staff, visitors and the environment.

1. Nursing will notify all departments involved with resident care when a resident is placed on linen precautions or isolation.
2. When a patient/resident is placed on linen precautions or isolation, Housekeeping/Laundry will provide Nursing with a linen hamper, canvas/mesh outer bags, and yellow infectious bags.
3. Nursing will place the linen hamper in the resident's room, along with a supply of canvas/mesh bags.
4. Attach the canvas/mesh bag to the linen hamper stand.
5. All soiled linen is placed in the hamper. Staff must be careful to keep soiled linen away from their uniform. Soiled linen also must never be placed on the floor.
6. Close the canvas/mesh bag when  $\frac{1}{2}$  full and also at the end of each shift.
7. Remove the closed bag from the hamper. Take it to the door of the room. A second person outside of the room shall have a large yellow plastic bag cuffed over their hands. The canvas/mesh bag is then placed inside of the yellow plastic bag, being careful not to contaminate the outside of the outer bag. The cuff of the outer bag is then lifted up and the bag is tied.
8. The staff member outside the room places it in the laundry barrel labeled "ISOLATION LINEN"; and returns the "Isolation Linen" barrel to the soiled utility room.
9. The soiled laundry is transported to the Laundry room by Maintenance and/or Housekeeping/Laundry personnel on a regular basis throughout the day.
10. Follow established handwashing procedures throughout this entire process.

**Policy Regarding Emerging Infectious Diseases:**

(EIDs) are those whose incidence in humans has increased in the past 2 decades or threaten to increase in the near future. These diseases, which respect no national boundaries, can challenge efforts to protect humans as prevention and control recommendations may not be immediately available. The occupational safety and health community can prepare for these unpredictable disease outbreaks and prevent disease transmission with resources such as the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization for protecting workers, particularly healthcare workers, nurses, doctors, and first responders.

Examples of EIDs include but, are not limited to:

- [Ebola](#) - viral hemorrhagic fever of humans and other primates caused by ebolaviruses.
- [Zika](#) Virus – transmitted to humans by mosquitoes
- [Chikungunya](#) Virus - transmitted to humans by mosquitoes
- [Avian Influenza](#) – normally affects birds but can be transmitted to workers who are in contact with infected poultry
- [Swine Influenza](#) - caused by the H1N1 virus strain, which started in pigs
- [SARS](#) – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
- [MERS](#) - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome
- COVID 19

**Standard:**

The organization uses a coordinated process to reduce the risks of endemic and epidemic infections in residents and health care workers.

**Policy:**

The facility will follow the infection prevention and control program (IPCP) to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

**Procedure:**

- In the case of a known or suspected outbreak of an EID, the Infection Preventist and Director of Nursing, in conjunction with the Medical Director will determine if the situation presents a threat to the health of other residents, staff members or visitors.
- The diagnosis will be verified using diagnostic testing and symptom evaluation.
- Detailed information, such as recent travel locations and contact with infected person(s)/livestock, will be obtained as able from any symptomatic resident, staff member or visitor to determine the specific source of the EID.
- Isolation and special infection precautions will be carried out in accordance with CDC guidelines as modified for nursing homes. CDC's standard precautions and disease-specific systems are the basis of the isolation and infection precautions policies and procedures in this facility. These systems take into consideration the source of infection, possible susceptible persons, and the methods of transmission of the disease. These systems are designed to protect residents, staff members, and visitors.
- Control measures will be put into place which includes but, is not limited to isolation of ill residents, entire rooms or units, cohorting of residents, staff or both, restriction of visitors, removal of staff from duty, restriction of transfers, admissions and services.
- All available resources will be utilized to provide medical attention and personal care to infected or symptomatic residents and staff members.
- The EID will be reported via HPN/ NORA as defined by the NYSDOH reporting requirements. Contact will be made with the DOH by phone, as indicated. Directives will be followed to treat and contain the EID.
- Infected residents and staff members will be transferred to a hospital or local treatment center if indicated.
- Focused education will be provided by the clinical team, as indicated. Each department manager is informed of what will be expected of the department.
- Summary of the outbreak investigation and infection control/treatment measures implemented will be documented and presented to the Quality Improvement Committee.

### **Policy regarding COVID 19**

It shall be the policy to utilize accepted infection control methods to prevent and control the spread of a respiratory illness caused by *novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)*, in all of the organization's facilities.

### **PURPOSE:**

The primary goals of *COVID-19* prevention and control in long-term care facilities are:

1. Preventing the transmission of *COVID-19* to residents, staff, and visitors while preserving the quality of life for residents with *COVID-19*.
2. Screening all hospital patients for *COVID-19*, prior to admission or re-admission to our facilities.

Background

- *COVID-19* is the abbreviated name for *novel Coronavirus Disease 2019* that first emerged in China but, has now spread to many countries, including the United States of America.
- *COVID-19* is a viral illness that is spread from person to person by respiratory droplets between those who are in close contact with one another (about 6 feet).
- While there is not yet evidence for spread from surfaces or objects (fomites), this may also be a possible mechanism of transmission.
- Symptoms may be mild or severe appearing as soon as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.
- Symptoms include fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, nasal congestion, rhinitis, sore throat and diarrhea.
- Some who are infected remain asymptomatic. Up to 80% of infected people recover without any need to seek care.
- Some develop severe illness (typically in the second week of illness) and at present it is estimated that approximately 2% will die from the virus. Older adults and patients with comorbid conditions are at an increased risk for more severe illness.
- This outbreak is evolving rapidly. The CDC is monitoring the outbreak and working closely with federal, state and local health departments to continue to provide updated information.
- There is currently no vaccine or antiviral drugs available for the prevention/treatment of *COVID-19*. Treatment focuses on rapid symptom management.

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **Surveillance**

Actively monitoring for *COVID-19* is an important aspect of the ongoing infection control program in long-term care facilities. Surveillance for *COVID-19* will include:

1. Pre-admission screening to determine if in the last 14 days the patient has been in close contact with any individual known or suspected to be infected with *COVID-19*.
2. One negative *COVID-19* test result from the hospital, prior to facility admission.
3. Screening and testing of any current resident or staff member exhibiting signs or symptoms.
4. Regular review of test results for *COVID-19* obtained as part of care to identify residents and staff members with *COVID-19* by the facility Infection Preventionist.
5. Monitoring the monthly frequency of *COVID-19* in the facility by the facility Infection Preventionist. These data will be utilized to define threshold levels that would prompt additional investigation or enhanced control measures.
6. Testing should be performed immediately if any resident develops symptoms consistent with *COVID-19*.
7. For residents who initially test negative, weekly re-testing may be considered until the testing identifies no new cases of *COVID-19* among residents or HCP over at least 14 days since the most recent positive result.

### **Testing Protocols**

1. The facility must obtain an order from a physician, PA, NP or clinical nurse specialist in accordance with state law, to conduct the tests for both PCR and antigen testing (including POC testing). Facilities may use standing orders.
2. Routine testing of asymptomatic residents is not recommended unless prompted by a change in circumstances, such as the identification of a confirmed *COVID-19* case in the facility.

**Below are 3 different Testing Protocols. Follow specific protocol based on facility location and designated laboratory.**

### **Protocol 1 - Non-CHS Testing:**

1. If any resident develops fever and/or cough or any compatible acute respiratory signs/symptoms (i.e. fatigue, acute change in functional status with no explanation, shortness of breath/dyspnea, sore throat, chills, nasal symptoms) immediately apply a face mask on the resident and initiate Contact and Droplet Precautions.
2. Complete Testing Protocol:
  - Obtain nasopharyngeal swab– send sample to designated laboratory STAT.
  - Obtain *COVID-19* testing swab.
  - Contact lab for STAT pick up.
  - Work-up of infection includes other tests for treatable bacterial causes of infection as indicated for the resident – CBC with differential count, procalcitonin, CMP, Chest X-ray, urinalysis and urine culture.
  - If STAT chest X-ray is positive for pneumonia, obtain urine for Legionella antigen and sputum for Legionella.

### **Protocol 2 - Catholic Health Lab Testing:**

1. If any resident develops fever and/or cough or any compatible acute respiratory signs/symptoms (i.e. fatigue, acute change in functional status with no explanation, shortness of breath/dyspnea, sore throat, chills, nasal symptoms) immediately apply a face mask on the resident and initiate Contact and Droplet Precautions.
2. Complete CHS Testing Protocol. This protocol has become available with rapid turnaround testing:
  - Obtain 1 nasopharyngeal swab for viral testing at CHS lab.
  - **The swab is labeled for testing of influenza, RSV and *COVID-19*.**
  - On the CHS lab requisition slip, write “**perform test in-house at CHS lab per Jim Jarnot**”.
  - Contact the CHS lab for STAT pick up.
  - Remind courier that the specimen is to be tested in house at CHS lab per Jim Jarnot.
  - When using the CHS lab protocol, **do not** send an additional swab to Kaleida lab for viral screening.

- Work-up of infection includes other tests for treatable bacterial causes of infection as indicated for the resident – CBC with differential count, procalcitonin, CMP, Chest X-ray, urinalysis and urine culture.
- If STAT chest X-ray is positive for pneumonia, obtain urine for Legionella antigen and sputum for Legionella.

### **Protocol 3 - Sofia SARS or BD Veritor Antigen Testing:**

1. Where available, approved for use to test residents and staff for COVID-19/2019-nCoV.
2. Point of care testing which provides automated and objective results in 15 minutes using nasopharyngeal or nasal swab specimens.
3. Refer to the Sofia SARS or BD Veritor Antigen Testing Policy for further details.

### **Test Shortage/Availability**

1. Test shortage/availability – If the 48 hour turnaround time to get tests done cannot be met due to community testing supply shortages, limited access or inability of laboratories to process tests within 48 hours, the facility should have documentation of its efforts to obtain quick turnaround test results with the identified laboratory or laboratories and contact with the local and state health departments.

### **Known or Suspected Case**

1. For a resident with an **undiagnosed respiratory infection or in 14-day quarantine status**: staff must follow Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions (i.e., facemask, gloves, isolation gown) with eye protection when caring for a resident unless the suspected diagnosis requires Airborne Precautions (i.e. tuberculosis). A gown is not necessary if there will be no direct contact with the resident or their immediate environment such as during meal and medication pass.
2. For a resident **with known or suspected COVID-19**: staff wear gloves, isolation gown, eye protection and an N95 or higher-level respirator if available. A facemask is an acceptable alternative if a respirator is not available. When *COVID-19* is identified in the facility, staff wear all recommended PPE (i.e., gloves, gown, eye protection and respirator or facemask) for the care of all residents on the unit (or facility-wide based on the location of affected residents), regardless of symptoms (based on availability).
3. Any suspected/positive case should not have nebulizer treatments given the risk.
4. Any suspected/positive case should have BiPAP/CPAP use held for 14 days if a viral filter is unavailable, unless otherwise ordered by the physician.
5. The local health department will be notified of any suspected resident, staff member or visitor case of *COVID-19*.
6. The infected resident will remain in his/her room on precautions with the door closed. If in a semiprivate room, the roommate will also be tested and placed on precautions. Efforts will be made to minimize movement of the infected resident within the facility.

7. Roommates of residents with *COVID-19* should be considered exposed and potentially infected and, if at all possible, should not share rooms with other residents unless they remain asymptomatic and/or have tested negative 14 days after their last exposure (i.e. date their roommate was moved to the *COVID-19* care unit). Exposed residents may be permitted to room share with other exposed residents if space is not available for them to remain in a single room.
8. Residents with respiratory illness symptoms and/or residents with a confirmed diagnosis of *COVID-19* may be grouped or cohorted. The CDC recommends that residents are placed in locations designated to care for *COVID-19* residents, to prevent the transmission of *COVID-19* to other residents.
9. Any resident that has fever/respiratory symptoms and is being worked up will have a red indicator on the door to alert staff.
10. All new admissions/readmission will have a negative *COVID* test before discharge from the hospital and will not be considered suspected *COVID* but, instead will remain under surveillance for *COVID-19* for 14 days, on Contact and Droplet Precautions. Re-testing at the facility between days 4-5 of admission may be considered.
11. All new admissions/readmissions will continue on precautions for a full 14 days, unless already deemed *COVID* recovered. If asymptomatic, precautions may be discontinued after 14 days. If able, cohort new admissions/readmissions in a block of rooms.
12. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including gloves, gown, N95 Respirator or approved equivalent, eye protection (goggles or face shield) must be utilized for any healthcare worker entering precaution rooms.
13. A surgical mask will be worn by all staff, students, contractors and visitors. Extended wear of facemasks is permitted. Facemasks should be changed when soiled or wet and when staff members go on breaks. Facilities will bundle care and minimize the number of health care providers and other staff who enter rooms to reduce the number of personnel requiring facemasks.
14. Residents with confirmed or possible *COVID-19* infection should wear a facemask when health care providers or other direct care providers enter their rooms, unless such is not tolerable.
15. Active health screening including temperature, respirations, pulse oximetry of all residents will be implemented every shift and as needed.
16. The pneumococcal vaccination will be re-offered to residents who previously declined.
17. Psychosocial and emotional needs of residents will be monitored during visitor restriction and social distancing period. Residents will be assisted with phone calls and video communication with family members and friends, as needed.
18. An approved EPA disinfectant will be used to clean all communication devices (i.e. phones, iPads) between residents. Such devices will be separated per team and not be shared between *COVID-19* positive (or suspected) and other residents (*COVID-19* negative or observation status).

### **Treatment General Statement:**

Our approach to skilled nursing facility management of *COVID-19* is based on limited data and will be updated when rapidly evolving clinical data emerge to guide management.

There are no published clinical guidelines for SNF *COVID-19* treatment. The following is treatment guidance. According to the National Institute of Health, adjunctive therapy is advocated by clinicians and there are multiple ongoing studies evaluating the use of vitamin and mineral supplements both in the prevention and treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection.<sup>1</sup> Specific antiviral treatments Remdesivir and convalescent plasma are available only in the hospital setting. Among the anti-inflammatory options

for *COVID-19*, only dexamethasone is available in the SNF setting. Other investigational anti-inflammatory drugs such as the interleukin IL-6 pathway inhibitors like tocilizumab are being evaluated in clinical trials.

## 1. Prophylactic Treatment of All Residents

- When a single case of *COVID* positive case is identified, the best practice would be to transfer that resident to a *COVID-19* facility.
- Vitamin C
  - Rationale:
    - Vitamin C is an essential water soluble vitamin that acts as a cofactor and antioxidant. Residents may require more Vitamin C in states of oxidative stress such as serious infections or sepsis. As an antioxidant and free radical scavenger with anti-inflammatory properties, Vitamin C influences cellular immunity and vascular integrity. Researchers have studied the effect of Vitamin C in residents with sepsis.<sup>2-5</sup>
  - Treatment: Residents may be started on Vitamin C 500 mg twice a day per provider preference.
- Zinc
  - Rationale:
    - Zinc is an essential trace element that is crucial for growth, development and maintenance of immune function. The role of zinc in antiviral immunity has been extensively studied. Increased intracellular zinc concentrations blocks the replication in a number of RNA viruses.<sup>6</sup>
    - Zinc deficiency may affect persons even in developed countries and zinc status is a critical factor that can influence antiviral immunity and a person is most at risk of acquiring viral infections if zinc deficient.<sup>7</sup>
    - Zinc levels are not available to measure. The relationship between zinc and *COVID-19*, including how zinc deficiency affects *COVID-19* severity and whether zinc supplements would improve residents with *COVID-19* are being studied.<sup>8</sup>
  - Treatment: Residents may be started on Zinc 220 mg (equals 50 mg elemental zinc) once a day per provider preference.
  - Provider must review if the resident is already taking zinc in other supplements, such as multiple vitamins or AREDS supplements which contain zinc.
  - Do not exceed 50 mg elemental zinc a day. The optimal dose of zinc for prophylaxis for *COVID-19* has not been established.
  - Long term zinc supplementation may cause copper deficiency. Provider must determine the optimal duration for zinc supplementation during the outbreak.

## Vitamin D

- Rationale:
  - Vitamin D has major effects on nearly all cells of the immune system.<sup>9</sup> As the Vitamin D receptor is expressed on immune cells such as B cells, T cells and antigen-presenting cells such as dendritic cells and macrophages and because

these cells can synthesize the active form of Vitamin D, Vitamin D also has the potential to modulate innate and adaptive immune responses.<sup>10</sup>

- Low plasma level of Vitamin D 25-OH appears to be an independent risk factor for *COVID-19* infection and hospitalization.<sup>11</sup> Vitamin D deficiency has been associated with higher mortality in severe *COVID-19*.<sup>12</sup>
  - In the United States, per the NIH, Vitamin D deficiency is more common in older adults and residents with obesity and hypertension and these factors have been associated with worse outcomes in residents with *COVID-19*.<sup>13</sup>
  - Low Vitamin D levels have been associated with an increased risk of community acquired pneumonia in older adults.<sup>14</sup>
  - Vitamin D supplementation was shown to protect against acute respiratory tract infections.<sup>15</sup>
- Treatment:
    - For residents who are receiving Vitamin D3 for maintenance or for previously diagnosed Vitamin D deficiency, continue their usual Vitamin D3 dosing.
    - For residents who are not previously diagnosed with Vitamin D deficiency, obtain Vitamin D 25-OH level. If deficient, treat with Vitamin D3 50,000 units once a week for 8 weeks and recheck Vitamin D 25-OH level. Goal is therapeutic level of Vitamin D 25-OH above 30 to 60 ng/ml. Providers may opt for daily dosing of Vitamin D3 for 2 weeks to rapidly achieve a normal Vitamin D 25-OH level.
    - For residents whose advance directives indicate no further bloodwork or whose providers determine that obtaining Vitamin D 25-OH level is not recommended, may treat the resident with 1000 units to 2000 units daily if consistent with goals of care.

## 2. Treatment for COVID-19 Positive Residents without Symptoms

- Vitamin C
  - Rationale - as above
  - Treatment: Residents may be started on Vitamin C 500 mg twice a day per provider preference.
- Zinc
  - Rationale - as above
  - Treatment:
    - Residents may be started on Zinc 220 mg (equals 50 mg elemental zinc) once a day for 4 weeks per provider preference.
    - Provider must review if the resident is already taking zinc in other supplements, such as multiple vitamins or AREDS supplements which contain zinc.
    - Do not exceed 50 mg elemental zinc a day. The optimal dose of zinc for the treatment of *COVID-19* has not been established.
- Vitamin D
  - Rationale - as above
  - Treatment:
    - For residents who are receiving Vitamin D3 for maintenance or for previously diagnosed Vitamin D deficiency, continue their usual Vitamin D3 dosing.

- For residents who are not previously diagnosed with Vitamin D deficiency, obtain Vitamin D 25-OH level. If deficient, treat with Vitamin D3 50,000 units once a week for 8 weeks and recheck Vitamin D 25-OH level. Goal is therapeutic level of Vitamin D 25-OH above 30 to 60 ng/ml.
  - Providers may opt for daily dosing of Vitamin D3 for 2 weeks to rapidly achieve a normal Vitamin D 25-OH level.
  - For residents whose advance directives indicate no further bloodwork or whose providers determine that obtaining Vitamin D 25-OH level is not recommended, may treat the resident with 1000 units to 2000 units daily if consistent with goals of care.
- Oral Hydration protocol if appropriate, while monitoring fluid status.
  - Critical to monitor intake. Our experience In April-May 2020 with *COVID-19* in the elderly in the SNF has been that *COVID-19* causes decreased appetite and oral intake. Some elderly residents may not have overt gastrointestinal symptoms of nausea and may present with the subtle sign of decreased appetite. If noted to have decrease in appetite and fluid intake, switch to #3 (Treatment for *COVID-19* Positive Residents within 48 hours of symptoms) below.
  - Evaluate if nebulized medications can be switched to inhalers to avoid aerosolizing the virus.
  - If nebulized bronchodilators are necessary for bronchospasm, follow all infection control measures and PPE with face shield and N95 during and after administration of nebulized treatment
  - Residents who are receiving anticoagulants or antiplatelet therapies for underlying conditions should continue these medications.

### 3. Treatment for *COVID-19* Positive Residents within 48 hours of Symptoms

- Vitamin C, Zinc and Vitamin D the same as above, #2.
- May consider adding Melatonin 3 to 10 mg HS, per provider preference.
  - Rationale - Melatonin which has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities, has potential as an adjunct therapy to reduce the proinflammatory cytokine storm and neutralize generated free radicals to preserve cellular integrity.<sup>16, 17</sup> There may be synergistic activity between Vitamin D and melatonin for the prevention and treatment of pulmonary infection by *COVID-19*.<sup>18</sup>
- Hydration is critical to preventing Acute Kidney Injury (AKI portends clinical decline and increased risk of mortality in this SNF population.)
  - For residents with CHF or hyponatremia at baseline, may hold off hydration.
  - For residents with fatigue and decreased oral intake, provider may start Clysis or IV hydration on day 1 or 2. Use clinician judgment and do not wait for abnormal labs to develop such as elevated BUN/Crea or decrease in GFR.
  - Review medication regimen: if hydration with clysis/IV is indicated, hold the resident's diuretics and monitor closely.
- VTE prophylaxis - Rationale: high rates of thrombosis and thromboembolic events have been observed during the *COVID-19* pandemic, and indicate a poor prognosis. In January 2020, the WHO issued interim guidance recommending daily LMWH for residents hospitalized with *COVID-19*. The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine has published guidance

for Anticoagulation of Residents with *COVID-19* in PALTC. Balance the benefit of reducing risk of thrombosis against the risk of clinically significant bleeding.<sup>19</sup>

- For residents who have no contraindication for anticoagulation, with low bleeding risk, it may be appropriate to start LMWH Enoxaparin (Lovenox) 40 mg SQ Daily or Apixaban (Eliquis) 2.5 mg twice a day.
- Optimal duration of anticoagulation is unknown; for high risk, consider 45 days.
- Review psychotropics. Residents who have obvious fatigue from *COVID-19* or decreased oral intake may benefit from reduction of dosage of psychotropics or in a case-to-case basis, may benefit from holding of psychotropics while being followed closely.
- Evaluate if nebulized medications can be switched to inhalers to avoid aerosolizing the virus.
- If nebulized bronchodilators are necessary for bronchospasm, follow all infection control measures and PPE with face shield and N95 during and after administration of nebulized treatment.
- Monitor for signs of bacterial superimposed infection. Treat with empiric antibiotic as necessary if bacterial infection is suspected.
- Pulse oximetry every 2 to 4 hours. If pulse ox is less than 94% on room air (defined as hypoxemia) or for residents with chronic hypoxemia, a decrease from baseline of greater than 3%, review again goals of care, MOLST. Consider transfer to the hospital for early treatment with IV Remdesivir or convalescent plasma.
  - If the resident has a Do not Transfer to Hospital order, or the resident and HCP want in-facility care first, then start oral dexamethasone.
  - Dexamethasone 6 mg orally daily for maximum 10 days.<sup>20</sup>
    - Monitor possible adverse effects of steroid - hyperglycemia, secondary infections or psychiatric effects.
    - Consider PUD prophylaxis with famotidine 20 mg daily (if the resident is not already receiving a proton pump inhibitor or H2 blocker)
- Use Acetaminophen as antipyretic. Avoid NSAIDS.
- May continue ace-inhibitors and statins.

#### **4. Treatment for *COVID-19* Positive Residents beginning greater than 48 hours after Symptom development.**

- Same as #3.

\*References for above treatment guidance are located at the end of this policy.

#### **Resident Transfer**

1. Hospital transfer will be required for severely symptomatic residents or any resident that requires an Airborne Isolation (negative pressure) room.

2. If an essential appointment is scheduled during the time the resident is being monitored for *COVID-19*, the resident must be checked for fever/symptoms prior to transport. If the resident is febrile or experiencing any other symptoms possibly related to *COVID-19*, the situation must be discussed with the attending medical provider prior to transporting the resident.
3. Any individual accompanying the resident is to wear a procedure mask.
4. If a resident with suspected or confirmed *COVID-19* requires transfer to another facility, this fact will be documented on the transfer documents and if possible a phone call will be placed to the receiving facility.
5. Facility must also alert emergency medical services of suspected or confirmed diagnosis.
6. LTC facilities may transfer or discharge residents to another LTC facility solely for the following cohorting purposes:
  - Transferring residents with symptoms of respiratory infection or confirmed diagnosis of *COVID-19* to another facility that agrees to accept each specific resident, and is dedicated to the care of such residents;
  - Transferring residents without symptoms of a respiratory infection or confirmed to not have *COVID-19* to another facility that agrees to accept each specific resident, and is dedicated to the care of such residents to prevent them from acquiring *COVID-19*; as well as providing treatment or therapy for other conditions as required by the resident's plan of care; or
  - Transferring residents without symptoms of a respiratory infection to another facility that agrees to accept each specific resident to observe for any signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection over 14 days.

### **Hospital Discharges**

1. No hospital shall discharge a patient to a Nursing Home unless the facility administrator has first certified that they are able to provide that patient with adequate care.
2. Hospitals must test any patient who may be discharged to a Nursing Home for *COVID-19*, using a molecular test for SARS-Cov-2 RNA.
3. No hospital shall discharge a patient who has been diagnosed with *COVID-19* to a Nursing Home, until that patient has received one negative test result using such testing method.
4. *COVID* positive patients that require skilled nursing care can however, be transferred to a designated *COVID* facility (Harris Hill or St. Joseph Post Acute Center).
  - No patient is transferred from a *COVID* designated facility back to a nursing home until two (2) negative *COVID-19* tests have been obtained at least 24 hours apart.

A resident who has been discharged to the hospital or for therapeutic leave is given priority in returning to the facility.

### **POLICY**

- Residents and/or the designated representative will be advised of the bed hold policy at the time of admission to the facility and at the time of transfer to the hospital.

## PROCEDURE

1. A resident whose hospitalization or therapeutic leave exceeds the bed hold period allowed by the state, will be readmitted to the facility upon the first availability of a bed in a semi-private room if the resident:
  - a) Requires the services provided by the facility.
  - b) The facility can meet the needs of resident.
  
2. Inquiries concerning readmission policies should be referred to the Administrator or Admissions Coordinator.

### ■ Guidance for Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions

- 
- The decision to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions for residents with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection should be made using a symptom-based strategy as described below. The time period used depends on the resident's severity of illness and if they are severely immunocompromised. Meeting criteria for discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions is not a prerequisite for discharge from a health care facility.
- 
- The Severely Immunocompromised Resident Risk Tool will be completed as needed to determine the risk level.
- 
- A test-based strategy is no longer recommended (except as noted below) because, in the majority of cases, it results in prolonged isolation of residents who continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA but, are no longer infectious.
- 

### ■ **Symptom-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions**

- 1. Residents with **mild to moderate illness** who are **not severely immunocompromised**:
    - At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
    - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
    - Symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) have improved
  - 
  - Note: For residents who are **not severely immunocompromised** and who were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection, Transmission-Based Precautions may be discontinued when at least 14 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.
  - 
  2. Residents with **severe to critical illness** or who are **severely immunocompromised**:
    - At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
    - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
    - Symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) have improved

- Note: For **severely immunocompromised** resident who were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection, Transmission-Based Precautions may be discontinued when at least 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

- **Test-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions**

- In some instances, a test-based strategy could be considered for discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions earlier than if symptom-based strategy were used. However, many residents will have prolonged viral shedding, limiting the utility of this approach. A test-based strategy could also be considered for some residents (i.e. those who are severely immunocompromised) in consultation with local infectious disease experts if concerns exist for the resident being infectious for more than 20 days.

- The criteria for the test-based strategy are:

1. Residents who are **symptomatic**:
  - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
  - Symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) have improved **and**
  - Results are negative from at least 2 consecutive respiratory specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of 2 negative specimens) tested using an FDA-authorized molecular viral assay to detect SARS-CoV-2 RNA.
2. Residents who are **not symptomatic**:
  - Results are negative from at least 2 consecutive respiratory specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of 2 negative specimens) tested using an FDA-authorized molecular viral assay to detect SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

### **CPR Guidance**

CPR creates significant additional risk of contracting *COVID-19* due to viral aerosolization. Consider CPR appropriateness. Balance CPR need with protecting rescuers.

Additional precautions are required when performing CPR during this pandemic. Use the following steps if CPR is necessary for any resident suspected or diagnosed with *COVID-19*:

1. *COVID-19* suspect or confirmed status of the resident will be clearly communicated before initiating CPR.
2. Don PPE including an N95 respirator, gown, gloves and face shield.
3. Close the door to the resident's room before performing CPR. Move other residents away from the area (i.e. hallways and transportation routes out of the facility).
4. Ensure that only 2 healthcare professionals with appropriate PPE are present in the room while CPR is being administered.
5. Spread a clear plastic sheet over the resident, including the resident's head.
6. If ventilation is to be conducted, utilize a bag-valve mask with a HEPA filter under the plastic sheet. If N95 respirators are unavailable, perform hands-only CPR without ventilation until EMS arrives.
7. Viral particles can remain suspended in the air with a half-life of approximately 1 hour and can be inhaled by those nearby. Open the window in resident's room and keep room door closed with no entry for minimally 2 hours after CPR is performed.

### **Communication**

*Based on DOH and CMS Guidance*

**1. Positive Test Result or COVID-19 Related Death:**

- If a resident tests positive for *COVID-19* and/or succumbs to the virus, the family or next of kin will be notified as soon as practical but, not to exceed 24 hours (or by 5pm the next calendar day, whichever is sooner).
- If any resident tests positive for *COVID-19* or if any resident suffers a *COVID-19* related death, the family or next of kin of **ALL** residents will be notified as soon as practical but, not to exceed 24 hours of such positive result or death (or by 5pm the next calendar day, whichever is sooner).

**2. Updates on Condition:**

- The family or next of kin of a *COVID-19* positive resident will be updated at least once per day and if a change in condition occurs.

**3. Cumulative Weekly Updates:**

- **ALL** residents and family or next of kin of **ALL** residents will be updated once per week on the number of infections and deaths at the facility.

**4. Access to Remote Video Conferencing:**

- The facility has multiple I pads dedicated solely for resident video conferencing use.
- Residents and/or responsible parties may contact the activities department to schedule video conferencing sessions with their loved ones at no cost.
- The activities department will keep a scheduling log for all call appointments.
- Members of the Activities department or Social Services will be available to assist residents with operation of the devices and/or calling features.
- Preferred video conferencing hours are between 8 am and 7 pm Sunday through Saturday. Appointments can be made outside of this time frame on an individual basis if needed.

**Facility Reporting to CDC's NHSN (National Healthcare Safety Network)**

The information will be used to monitor trends in infection rates and inform public health policies. Information reported will be shared with CMS and will be retained and publicly reported to support protecting the health and safety of residents, personnel and the general public. Reporting is required on a weekly basis.

Facilities must report all test results to CDC, NHSN including POC tests under a CLIA certificate of waiver.

Reporting includes 4 data collection pathways:

1. Resident Impact and Facility Capacity
2. Staff and Personnel Impact
3. Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment
4. Ventilator capacity and Supplies

### **Managing Resident Deaths**

To ensure the most appropriate removal of decedents from the facility and proper handling of personal effects, utilize the following practices:

1. Family members will be encouraged to determine a funeral home prior to admission. If a pre-planned funeral contract has been executed, this will be indicated in the medical record.
2. In the event of the resident's death, the family will be contacted prior to calling the funeral home. Families are notified as soon as possible but, within 24 hours of the death.
3. In cases where there is no funeral provider selected by the family, the county may be contacted for direction as needed.
4. A form of identification will be attached to the body (i.e. toe tag) if there is no wrist band.
5. The decedent will be placed into a body bag or pouch prior to moving the body to any other location or release to the funeral director or coroner/examiner.
6. Matching identification will be attached to the outside of the body bag or pouch.
7. Personal effects such as eyeglasses, dentures and hearing aids will be bagged and labeled for the funeral home and placed next to the body.
8. Other personal effects will be disinfected as appropriate with a sanitizing solution that contains at least 70% alcohol.
9. Important items or keepsakes that cannot be easily sanitized, must be placed in plastic bags before storing in boxes/bins.
10. PPE will be worn when handling personal effects of the deceased resident. All infection control practices including hand hygiene will be followed.
11. The items will be labeled and retained for the family. Proper tracking, storage and handling of all personal effects will be followed.
12. Family members should be encourage to wait at least 7 days before unpacking items.
13. In cases where long term storage of personal effects is necessary, the items will be stored in a clean, secure location.
14. Soiled clothing and bed linens will be laundered prior to storage. Items that are wet or contaminated with body fluids will be properly discarded.
15. A list of personal effects given to the funeral director and/or those stored or given to a family member will be documented accordingly.

Guidance to families regarding resident death:

1. In addition to communicating the resident's funeral home arrangements, the family is encouraged to provide clear instructions regarding the handling of personal effects upon death.

2. Families are advised of the facility policies regarding death notification and visitation. Visitation of the decedent's body will be allowed using proper infection control practices including face covers for all persons involved.
3. Families are informed that if no funeral home is selected, the decedent will be released to the county authority.

### **Emergency Medication Pass**

1. During the *COVID-19* emergency, at the discretion of the Medical Director and Director of Nursing, when staffing is considered critical non-essential medications and treatments can be held per policy. Every effort will be made to avoid omitted and delayed doses of critical medicines.

### **Activities/Therapy/Dining**

1. All outside entertainment will be suspended.
2. All group activities will be suspended.
3. Activities and therapy programs will be provided in room only.
4. Large gathering areas will be closed (i.e. solarium, library).
5. There will be no communal dining except for the CARE unit at Northgate and all red zones at Harris Hill. These dining areas will be marked to assure there is at least 6 feet between residents.
6. In all other facilities/areas, residents will eat meals in rooms or on units also with at least 6 feet between other residents.

### **CMS Definition of Facility Staff**

1. For the purposes of this policy, 'facility staff' is defined as employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, and caregivers who provide care and services to residents on behalf of the facility, and students in the facility's nurse aid training programs or from affiliated academic institutions. This definition applies but, is not limited to screening, testing, guidance for returning to work and testing refusals as outlined below.

### **Staff/Consultant Screening**

1. All staff members/consultants will be screened, including temporal scanning for fever, prior to entry into the facility. In the event the staff member/consultant is symptomatic, the individual will be restricted from entering.
2. Staff screening must be completed every 8 hours therefore, if working a double a second temperature check must be completed. The Healthcare Worker Daily Alert form will be completed should a staff member have a fever AND respiratory symptoms at the screening check or develop symptoms during work.
3. Staff/consultant will be asked if they have worked in another facility or location with recognized *COVID-19* cases (outside of TMG).
4. Facility staff performing health checks must wear facemasks.
5. Nursing students are permitted but, must wear a mask, until otherwise directed by the facility Administrator and/or Infection Preventionist.

6. Supervision will be provided for all provisional staff members/new hires. Safety and proper infection control practices are paramount.
7. Staff members/consultants who have signs and symptoms of respiratory infection while on-the-job, should:
  - Immediately stop work, apply a facemask and self-isolate at home; and
  - Inform the facility Infection Preventionist and include information on individuals, equipment and locations the person came in contact with.

#### **DOH Requirement for COVID-19 Testing of Staff/Consultants/Students**

1. Testing or arrangements for testing of all personnel including all staff, contract staff, students, medical staff, operators and administrators is required.
2. Testing must occur once per week, pursuant to executive order 202.40.
3. Consultants and students must provide a copy of proof if tested outside the facility.
4. Proof of a negative test result is required for all students, prior to the start of onsite clinicals.
5. Staff who are working from home, or otherwise not at the same site as residents do not need to be tested as long as they remain offsite.
6. Staff of home health (LHCSA, CHHA) and hospice agencies which serve residents residing in the facility are not personnel who must be tested pursuant to executive order 202.30.
7. Any positive test result will be reported to the DOH by 5pm of the day following receipt of such test result.
8. Any personnel with positive test results must remain home in isolation, in accordance with all guidance and directives of the state and local health departments.
9. Records of personnel testing and results will be maintained for a period of 1 year.

#### **DOH Guidance Regarding Staff/Consultants/Students Returning to Work**

1. Staff members/consultants/students who test positive for *COVID-19* but remain asymptomatic are not eligible to return to work for 14 days from the first positive test date in any situation.
2. Staff members/consultants/students who test positive for *COVID-19* and are symptomatic may not return to work until 14 days after the onset of symptoms, provided at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and respiratory symptoms are improving.
3. A negative test result is required prior to returning to work.

#### **Refusals of Tests**

1. **Staff Refusal** – Staff who have no s/s of *COVID-19* and refuse testing are prohibited from entering the facility until the return to work criteria are met. If outbreak testing has been triggered and a staff member refuses testing, the staff member should be restricted from the facility until the procedures for outbreak testing have been completed. The facility should follow its occupational health and jurisdiction policies with respect to any asymptomatic staff who refuse routine testing.
2. **Resident Refusal** – Residents who have s/s of *COVID-19* and refuse testing are placed on TBP until the criteria for discontinuing TBP have been met. If outbreak testing has been triggered and an asymptomatic resident refuses testing, the facility should be extremely vigilant, such as through additional monitoring, to ensure the resident maintains appropriate distance from other residents, wears a face covering, and practices

hand hygiene until the procedures for outbreak testing have been completed.

### **Documentation of Test Results**

1. **Symptomatic testing of residents and staff** - Document the date and time of the identification of s/s, when testing was conducted, when results were obtained, and the actions the facility took based on the results.
2. **Outbreak testing** - Document the date the case was identified, the date that all other residents and staff are tested, the dates that staff and residents who tested negative are retested and the results of the test.

**Staff routine testing** - Document the date each positivity rate was collected. Also, document the date the testing was performed for all staff, and the results of each test.

### **Visitor Restrictions**

Refer to “Reopening Plan For Facilities That Meet Criteria” located in this policy.

1. All visitors are restricted except when medically necessary (i.e. visitor is essential to the care of the resident or is providing support in an imminent end of life situation or is providing Hospice care). The duration and number of visits must be minimized. Visitors should wear a facemask while in the facility and must remain in the resident’s room. Such cases must be approved by the Facility Administrator.
2. Education will be provided to all visitors regarding hand hygiene and self-monitoring for signs/symptoms of respiratory infection for at least 14 days after exiting the facility. If symptoms occur, they should self-isolate at home, contact their health care provider and immediately notify the facility of the date when in the facility, the individuals they were in contact with and the locations within the facility where they visited. The facility will immediately screen the individuals of reported contact and take all necessary actions based on the findings.
3. No school age children may visit under any circumstance (14 years and younger).
4. Pet visits are not permitted.
5. Staff will be assigned to provide contact to families for inbound calls and conduct regular outbound calls to keep families up to date.

### **PPE**

1. The facility will have a plan to maintain or contract to have at least a 2 month supply of PPE available for use as indicated.
2. The facility Administrator/designee will compare existing inventories of PPE (face shields, gowns, gloves, masks, N95 respirators) against the expected rate of use of these items under a surge situation, to determine the quantities needed to be on hand. Optimize and conserve PPE where appropriate as supply chain interruptions have been noted due to the high demand.
3. Facilities that identify a shortage of PPE, should use existing plans and vendor agreements to procure additional assets, by taking the following steps:
  - Use existing vendor agreements and procurement plans to place orders for quantities needed by type and size of PPE.
  - Activate existing Mutual Aid Agreements to obtain available support from those partners.
  - Notify County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) when all existing agreements are exhausted and supply needs exceed those available from these sources.

- Coordinate with County OEM to identify and utilize other existing county resources.
- Notify the respective Department’s Regional Office of ongoing need.
- If all local resources have been exhausted, submit a request, via your County OEM, to the state OEM. The request should include as much detail as available, but include at a minimum the following elements:
  - Type and Quantity of PPE by size
  - Point of Contact at the requesting facility or system
  - Delivery location
  - Date request is needed to be filled by
  - Record of pending orders

OEM contacts:

- Erie County:  
Gregory J. Butcher, Deputy Commissioner  
Office: 716-858-2944  
[Gregory.butcher@erie.gov](mailto:Gregory.butcher@erie.gov)
- Niagara County (Northgate):  
Daniel Leven  
[daniel.leven@niagaracounty.com](mailto:daniel.leven@niagaracounty.com)
- Suffolk County (Brookhaven):  
OEM: 631-852-4900
- Michigan Region 2 North (Autumn Woods):  
Rachiel Clay, Assistant Regional Coordinator  
Office: 248-759-4748  
Mobile: 586-216-1270  
[rclay@region2north.com](mailto:rclay@region2north.com)

### **CDC Strategies for Optimizing Supply of PPE**

If all efforts to obtain PPE through vendors and local Office of Emergency Management are exhausted or unsuccessful, healthcare providers should refer to CDC guidance entitled “Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE”.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

#### 1. Eye Protection

- Implement extended use of eye protection. Wear the same protection for multiple residents. Change only when soiled or damaged.
- Use non-disposable, re-usable goggles or face shields. Using CDC or DOH accepted protocols, clean and disinfect the goggle or face shield between uses.
- Use non-medical or medical safety glasses that cover the sides of the eyes.
- Reprocess disposable eye protection for re-use. If there are no manufacturer’s instructions, use instructions suggested by the CDC.
  - While wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield or goggles, using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent solution or cleaner wipe.
  - Carefully wipe the outside of the face shield or goggles using a wipe or clean cloth saturated with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant solution.
  - Wipe the outside of the face shield or goggles with clean water or alcohol to remove residue.
  - Fully dry (air dry or use clean absorbent towels).
  - Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

## 2. Gowns

- Restrict sterile surgical gowns to use during sterile procedures.
- Use coveralls, if available.
- Use gowns and coveralls approved in other countries.
- Implement extended use of gowns or coveralls for cohorted residents with *COVID-19*. Similarly, implement extended use of gowns or coveralls for residents without symptoms of *COVID-19*. Change gowns or coveralls only when soiled, wet or after interacting with a resident with other transmissible diagnoses (i.e. C diff, targeted multidrug-resistant organisms, *Candida auris*).
- Use cloth isolation gowns that can be laundered.
- Re-use gowns with no visible soiling for care of residents with *COVID-19*.
- Prioritize gowns for aerosol-generating procedures, activities possibly involving splashes or sprays, high-contact activities, and for the care of residents with non *COVID-19* transmissible diagnoses (i.e. C diff, multidrug-resistant organisms, *Candida auris*).
- Use other items of clothing, such as disposable laboratory coats, cloth resident gowns, cloth laboratory coats, disposable aprons or combinations thereof.

## 3. Facemasks

- Implement extended use of facemasks. Wear the same facemask for multiple residents with confirmed *COVID-19* without removing between residents. Change only when soiled, wet or damaged and per facility policy. Do not touch the facemask.
- Use expired facemasks.
- Prioritize facemasks for HCP rather than as source control for residents. Have residents use tissues or similar barriers to cover their mouth and nose.
- Implement limited re-use of facemasks. Do not touch outer surface of the facemask, fold so outer surface is inward, assign to a single HCP and store in a breathable container between uses. Always perform hand hygiene immediately after touching the facemask.
- If available, use portable HEPA filters or ventilated headboards to decrease risk of HCP without adequate respiratory protection.
- Prioritize facemasks for sterile procedures, when splashes or sprays are anticipated with prolonged close contact with a potentially infectious resident and (if respirators are not available) for aerosol-generating procedures or similar procedures with potential for uncontrolled respiratory secretions.
- Use a face shield covering the entire front and sides of the face.
- Use cloth masks or other homemade masks (i.e. bandanas, scarves) for HCP is not recommended. If used, they should be used with a face shield. It is unknown whether cloth masks provide effective source control for infectious residents.

## 4. N95 Respirators

- Implement extended use of N95 respirators. Wear the same respiratory for multiple residents without removing between residents. Change only when soiled, wet, damaged or difficult to breathe through. Do not touch the respirator.
- Implement limited re-use for residents with tuberculosis, for which contact transmission is not a concern. Assign to a single HCP and store in a breathable container between uses.
- Use expired N95 respirators.
- Use respirators approved in other countries.

- Implement limited re-use for residents with *COVID-19*, if possible with decontamination between uses. If not decontaminated, an important risk is that virus on the outside of the respirator might be transferred to the wearer's hands leading to transmission to the health care personnel or other people. It is crucial to avoid touching the respirator while worn and during or after doffing and to perform rigorous hand hygiene. Assign to a single HCP and store in a breathable container between uses.
- Prioritize use of N95 respirators to higher risk activities.
- If available, use portable HEPA filters or ventilated headboards to decrease risk of HCP without adequate respiratory protection.

### **Conventional Capacity Strategies for PPE**

1. Use PPE according to product labeling and local, state and federal requirements.
2. Use PPE alternatives that offer equivalent or higher protection.

### **Contingency Capacity Strategies for PPE**

1. Selectively cancel elective and non-urgent procedures and appointments for which specific PPE is typically used by the HCP.
2. Shift PPE supplies from disposable to re-usable devices where applicable.
3. Implement extended use of PPE.

### **Crisis Capacity Strategies for PPE**

1. Cancel all elective and non-urgent procedures and appointments for which specific PPE is typically used by the HCP.
2. Use PPE devices beyond the manufacturer-designed shelf life during resident care activities.
3. When PPE supplies are unavailable, consider using alternatives that have not been evaluated as effective.
4. Exclude HCP at higher risk for severe illness from *COVID-19* from contact with known or suspected *COVID-19* residents.
5. Designate convalescent HCP for provision of care to known or suspected *COVID-19* residents.

### **Preventing Illness**

1. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus and properly using/wearing PPE when needed.
2. The CDC recommends the following actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:
  - Perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub before and after all resident contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before applying and removing PPE, including gloves. Use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled.
  - Hand hygiene-when being assisted by staff, resident hand hygiene is performed after toileting and before meals.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are symptomatic. For residents with *COVID-19*, close contact includes being within approximately 6 feet of the resident for prolonged periods of

time or having direct contact with the resident's infectious secretions (i.e. sputum, blood, serum and respiratory droplets).

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Screen staff, visitors and vendors per above guidance.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then properly dispose of the tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (i.e. medication carts, nurses station, care equipment, etc.) using an approved disinfectant spray or wipe.

### **Isolated Areas/Units**

1. A designated area/unit(s) is isolated from the rest of the facility. This area is designated if a resident tests positive for *COVID-19*.
2. The designated area is referred to as the 'Red Zone'. Any residents on another unit that become Persons Under Investigation (PUI) will be tested and moved to the designated area if the test result is positive.
3. Only designated essential staff may enter the designated unit. Maintenance may enter only if an emergency repair is required.
4. Cohorting of *COVID-19* positive residents within the Red Zone is ideal when possible. The same PPE may be worn for *COVID-19* positive residents.
5. Staff are donning full PPE including N-95 mask (if fit tested), face shield/goggles, gown at the beginning of the shift.
  - Gowns or coveralls can be worn as extended use and do not need to be changed when going from resident to resident. They should be changed if wet, soiled or damaged and when leaving the Red Zone area.
  - Gloves are changed in between residents.
  - N-95 mask, face shield/goggles can be cleaned and worn as extended use and do not need to be changed when going from resident to resident. This PPE can also be cleaned and stored for continual use.
6. An indicator will be placed on positive *COVID* resident's rooms.
7. Staff will wear an N-95 covered with a surgical mask when in the Red Zone.

### **Zoning for Isolated Units**

1. Facilities that have positive cases and have established designated isolation areas will identify ways in which delivery of essentials (food, laundry) to the unit and removal of waste (garbage, laundry, dietary caddy) will move throughout the facility.
2. The facility will establish entry and exit points for essential staff and delivery/removal of waste. The zoning model will be established to meet each facility's needs. Traffic will move in one direction as best as able; entry from one portal and exit from another.
3. Demarcation of 'zoned areas' will be identified so that staff are aware at all times of the zone they are in. Directional arrows will also be utilized to indicate the flow of all traffic.

4. PPE stations will be established in zones as determined appropriate in addition to individual PPE in designated rooms.
5. Staff cooling rooms and designated toileting facilities within the Red Zone will be established as deemed appropriate.

### **Red Zone**

Is a critical zone; full PPE; can use the same PPE for *COVID* positive residents:

- Gown
- N-95 mask with surgical mask over
- Eye Protection
- Gloves are changed between residents regardless of resident status

If you need to move equipment or carts from the Red Zone:

- End user wipes
- Runner wipes

### **Yellow Zone**

1. Residents with exposure to a *COVID-19* positive resident (roommate of a positive resident), new admission, PUI or other as determined by the care team may be transferred to the Yellow Zone.
2. All residents within the Yellow Zone are placed on Contact and Droplet Precautions as able. PPE will be re-used only in each individual room. All residents will be given a surgical mask to don while staff are in the room.
3. Given residents are on Droplet Precautions, showers will not be provided. In lieu of showers, bed baths will be provided.
4. Gowns and gloves must be removed and hand hygiene performed before leaving the room of a resident in the Yellow Zone before moving to another non-positive resident in the Yellow Zone.
5. A gown is not necessary if there will be no direct contact with the resident or their immediate environment such as during meal and medication pass.
6. Surgical mask:
  - For facilities where staff wear a surgical mask only, the mask is left on when leaving the room of a resident in the Yellow Zone.
  - For facilities where staff wear an N-95 respirator with a surgical mask over, the surgical mask is removed when leaving the room of a resident in the Yellow Zone.
7. For residents within the Yellow Zone, PPE use includes:
  - Re-use individual resident gown hanging in the room
  - Surgical mask or N-95 mask with surgical mask over
  - Eye protection
  - Gloves are changed in between residents regardless of resident status
8. Yellow Zone may also be referred to as the area where Red Zone PPE is donned and doffed.

### **Green Zone**

Safe zone. Surgical masks only.

### **Emergency Staffing Strategies**

1. Feeding Assistant Training Program - Staff may be cross-trained to feed/assist residents with meals. The Feeding Assistant Skills Competency Checklist will be used to document completion of the program. Skills include but, are not limited to:
  - Feeding Techniques
  - Assistance with feeding and hydration
  - Communication and interpersonal skills
  - Appropriate response to resident behavior
  - Safety and emergency procedures, including the Heimlich Maneuver
  - Infection Control
  - Residents Rights
  - Recognizing changes in residents that are inconsistent with their normal behavior and importance of reporting changes to the supervisory nurse
  - Providing dining assistance only for residents without complicated feeding problems
  - Working under the supervision of a licensed nurse
  
2. Nursing Aide Training Program – Newly hired staff and current staff who wish to be trained as nursing aides, will participate in a 5 day training program. The program will be taught by a nurse educator who will ensure competency in all required skills. Training includes classroom instruction, mentor shadowing and hands-on practice/re-demonstration. The NA Competency Checklist will be used to document completion of the program. Skills include but, are not limited to:
  - Infection control/hand hygiene
  - Indirect care
  - Transferring
  - Dressing
  - Oral care
  - Perineal care
  - Partial bed bath
  - Hygiene/shaving/nail care
  - Catheter care
  - Obtaining temperature, pulse and respirations
  - Range of Motion
  
3. Universal Worker- Non-clinical staff members may be cross-trained to complete tasks that do not require professional licensure. Universal workers will be supervised by a designated staff member of the specific department where they are assigned. Tasks include but, are not limited to:
  - Tray pass
  - Feeding/assisting residents with meals
  - Kitchen/dish room helper
  - Laundry services
  - Housekeeping/Environmental
  - Maintenance helper

- Administrative duties

### **Environmental/Cleaning**

1. Signage - Facility should post signage (in multiple languages, if needed) at entrances regarding visitor restrictions.
2. Essential deliveries and vendors will be received at the rear door to unload supplies, etc. Every effort will be made to prevent them from entering the facility.
3. Environmental cleaning with an approved disinfectant identified to sanitize against human *COVID-19* (i.e. Bleach) will be completed daily, or when visibly soiled and for terminal cleaning after infection has resolved.
4. Treatment Room - If used for resident exams or treatments (i.e. dental, podiatry), the treatment room must be disinfected between residents. Only residents in green zone may enter the treatment room.
5. Frequently Touched Surfaces such as doorknobs, handrails, countertops, etc. will be disinfected daily throughout the facility.
6. Room cleaning – An approved disinfectant will be used for cleaning the rooms of residents with *COVID-19*. Attention should be given to bedside tables, handrails, call buttons, windowsills, and toilets. Once a resident is asymptomatic their room should undergo terminal cleaning as if a new resident was to occupy the room. Mop heads will be changed between rooms.
7. Hand Sanitizer will be available in designated locations throughout the facility and resident rooms. Supplies of hand sanitizer will be routinely monitored and replenished.
8. Medical Equipment - Sharing of medical equipment will be limited as much as possible. All equipment will be disinfected between residents.
9. Physical and recreational therapy equipment - The hands of residents with *COVID-19* will be cleaned before the resident uses recreational or therapy equipment. Standard facility procedures will be followed for routine cleaning and disinfection of recreational and therapy equipment used by residents with *COVID-19*.
10. Trash disposal - Standard facility procedures for trash disposal will be followed; no special handling is necessary.
11. Shared Bathrooms, Showers, Tubs, etc.- Shared bathrooms, tubs and showers will be cleaned and disinfected per standard facility procedure after use by residents with *COVID-19*. It may be practical to bathe residents with *COVID-19* after other residents have completed their bathing or in room using a sponge bath.
12. Supervision of Environmental Cleaning – Housekeeping staff will be supervised to ensure proper cleaning/disinfecting procedures are being followed. Inservicing will be provided as indicted.
13. Dishes, glasses, eating utensils, etc. - Disposable dining equipment will be used as able. All reusable equipment is properly sanitized after every use. Standard Precautions are followed.
14. Laundry - Standard precautions will be used for the handling of laundry from residents with *COVID-19*. EPA-approved products are used on the warmest appropriate setting according to manufacturer's instructions. No shaking of linens in order to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air. Laundry bins/hampers and carts are routinely disinfected.
15. Staff Education - The facility has mandatory continuing education programs for staff regarding standard infection control techniques as well as additional techniques such as Contact or Droplet Precautions.
16. Resident, Family, Visitor Education
  - Residents and their families and visitors will be educated regarding *COVID-19* and all necessary precautions to be taken, including hand hygiene and methods to limit environmental contamination. Family and visitors will be required to perform hand hygiene before entering and leaving the room of a resident with *COVID-19*.

- Family/visitors will follow facility precautions policy.
- Staff will provide families, visitors and other residents additional support to alleviate their concerns and to ensure that they understand *COVID-19*.

## **REOPENING PLAN FOR FACILITIES THAT MEET CRITERIA:**

### **Criteria for Reopening Nursing Homes**

Facilities may consider limited visitation and activities when the following conditions have been met:

1. The facility is in full compliance with all state and federal requirements, state Executive Orders and guidance, state reporting requirements including *COVID-19* focus surveys, HERDS and staff testing surveys, and federally required submission of *COVID-19* data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).
2. The facility has protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staffing teams to deal with *COVID*-positive residents and non-positive residents.
3. The facility has completed the NY Forward Safety Plan and submitted a copy of the completed plan to [covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov](mailto:covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov). The facility will retain a copy of the plan at the facility where it is easily accessible and immediately available upon request of the Department or Local Health Department. Any changes to the plan will be immediately communicated to the Department. The plan will:
  - a. Clearly articulate the space(s) to be used for visitation (outdoors and indoors) including the number of visitors and residents which could be safely socially distanced within the space(s).
  - b. Such plan shall include attestation of compliance with all State and federal guidelines.
4. The facility has no staffing shortages as evidenced by the facility's individual staffing plan and as reported through the submission to the National Health Safety Network (NHSN).
5. Access to adequate testing. The facility should have a testing plan in place that, at a minimum, ensures all consenting nursing home residents have received a single baseline *COVID-19* test. In addition, the facility has the capability to test or can arrange for testing of all residents upon identification of any individual with symptoms consistent with *COVID-19*. If a staff member tests positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the facility has the capacity to continue re-testing all nursing home staff and residents, as applicable.
6. An executed and operationalized arrangement with laboratories to process SARS-CoV-2 virus tests. As recommended by CMS, the test used should be able to detect SARS-CoV-2 virus (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR)) with greater than 95 percent sensitivity, greater than 90 percent specificity, with results obtained and rapidly reported to the facility.
7. Continued written screening protocols for all staff during each shift including temperature and symptom check, questionnaire regarding potential exposure.
8. Continued screening and monitoring of all residents every shift including temperature checks, vital signs, pulse oximetry and evaluation for *COVID* related symptoms.
9. Written screening protocols for all visitors entering the facility including temperature and symptoms check as well as questionnaire regarding potential exposure.

10. There have been no new nursing home onset *COVID* cases (residents or employees) in the facility for 28 days. Once reopened, if there is a new positive case among residents or employees, visitation will be halted until criteria is met.
11. The facility has adequate supplies of PPE and essential cleaning and disinfection supplies to care for residents. An adequate supply of masks will be on hand and available for visitors who lack an acceptable face covering.
12. Referral hospital(s) have bed capacity on wards and intensive care units.
13. A copy of the facility's formal visitation plan is posted to the public website and broadcasted via email, robo call or social media to provide visitors with clear guidelines for visiting and to announce if and when visitation is paused due to an increase in the number of residents and/or staff with a confirmed positive *COVID-19* diagnosis.

### **Facility Visitation Guidelines**

1. No more than 10% of the residents shall have visitors at any one time. Only two visitors (limited to family members, loved ones, and representatives from the long term care ombudsmen program and advocacy groups) per resident at any one time.
2. Visitation is by appointment only. The facility will have designated days/times for limited visitation. The facility administrator may make exceptions to the above visitation days as able to accommodate resident needs and family schedules, not to exceed the 10% threshold. Examples of such:
  - a. Based on the first letter of the resident's surname, visitation days are assigned as follows:
    - A-C – Sunday
    - D-G – Monday
    - H-K – Tuesday
    - L-N – Wednesday
    - O-R – Thursday
    - S-V - Friday
    - W-Z – Saturday
  - b. Scheduled appointments between designated times (i.e. 9am-11am and 2p-5p)
  - c. Scheduled appointments in incremental time slots (i.e 30-60 minutes).
3. Visitation is limited to outdoor areas, weather permitting. The facility will use designated areas that allow and are marked for social distancing delineations i.e. on the portico and courtyards.
4. Only under certain limited circumstances will visitation be allowed inside. Such visitation will be allowed in well ventilated, common areas only (main dining room, library, family lounge, solarium or portico) and is strictly prohibited on units and in resident room.
5. Current *COVID-19* positive residents, residents with *COVID-19* symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period or not eligible for visits.
6. Both residents and visitors must remain socially distanced at all times and face coverings/masks must cover both the nose and mouth, if medically tolerated. The only exception to social distancing is when residents are being assisted with wheelchair mobility.
7. Adequate staff will be present to allow for assistance with the transition of residents and monitoring of visitation including strict adherence to social distancing and wearing of required PPE.
8. Cleaning and disinfecting of approved visitation areas will be conducted after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant.
9. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

## 10. Visitor Entry:

- a. All visitors with an appointment will be directed to a designated 'check in' area for screening. Such screening includes:
    - Point of Care Testing (if available)
    - Observation of any signs or symptoms
    - Temperature checks
    - Questionnaire about symptoms and potential exposure including international travel or travel to other states designated under the Commissioner's travel advisory.
    - Documentation of screening questions and temperature recordings is maintained onsite.
    - Visitors must also provide the following information which is maintained electronically. Such information is available upon the Department's request for purposes of inspection and potential contact tracing.
      - First and last name
      - Physical (street) address
      - Daytime and evening telephone number
      - Date and time of visit
      - Email address, if available
      - A notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (temperature and questions) but does not disclose individual specific information.
  - b. Visitation will be refused if any individual(s) exhibits any *COVID-19* symptoms or does not pass the screening questions.
  - c. Visitors will be checked for appropriate face covering/mask which will be required for entry. Face coverings and masks must cover both the nose and mouth throughout the duration of the visit. For visitors who do not have an appropriate face covering, one will be issued.
  - d. Visitors will be required to utilize alcohol-based hand rub. Education on use is provided.
  - e. Visitors will be escorted to the designated visitation area.
11. Visits will be monitored by designated staff and those who do not follow the guidelines will be asked to leave the premises.

**Hazard Annex: Loss of Essential Services (Electric, Gas, Water, Communications, Computer Systems)**

**A. Water**

1. Notify the Fire Department of loss of water, as the sprinkler system will not function.
2. If the water loss is widespread, the Local Water Division should be contacted and an estimate obtained as to how long it will be until water pressure is restored.
3. If it is expected that the facility would be without water pressure for more than 4 hours, then:
  - (1) The Milk Vendor should be contacted for potable water for drinking and cooking, and

- a) The facility will have on file a current letter from their dairy company explaining the availability of an emergency water supply to the facility.
- b) If the *dairy* company is unable to provide water 7 days a week, 24 hrs. per day, other arrangements should be made with:
  - i) a local supermarket open 24 hrs. per day that carries bottled water and/or
  - ii) a local "spring water" distributor

(2) The Department of Health Complaint Hotline should be notified.

4. If arrangements cannot be made for an emergency water supply, all unnecessary use of water should be restricted or discontinued. The Disaster Coordinator may have to:
  1. Assign personnel to take water to the units in pails.
  2. Cancel meetings or other functions, which might bring additional people into the facility.
  3. Cancel the use of whirlpool tubs by the therapy department.
  4. Cancel hairdresser appointments.
  5. Extra sources of liquids that will be available on the premises are juices, milk, soft drinks, and water, to be rationed so all persons have one quart per day for three days. If advance notice is available, fill bathtubs and add 4 oz. of Clorox per tub.
  6. A priority cooking list will be followed per dietary policy.

The facility will maintain a supply of potable water according to the following formula:

- 2 liters per resident per day X 3 days.
- 6 liters per resident for bathing and hand washing X 3 days.

The facility stores minimally 50 gallons of bottled water plus 700 gallons of potable water in the hot water tanks.

## **B. SEWAGE SYSTEM**

1. If sewer system is intact, toilets can often be force flushed by pouring a pail of water into the tank.
2. Identify any potential areas of the facility that have a functioning drain line. Transport residents to this area to use the restroom.
3. Temporarily suspend showers and move to bed baths.
4. Attempt to minimize the amount of liquids entering the drains until the line is unclogged.

If sewer system is completely blocked:

1. Line toilets with plastic bag and have a tight cover, or utilize a full commode if available.
2. Provide a seat for bagged toilets using commode seats and/or shower chairs.
3. After each use, pour a small amount of disinfectant into bags.
4. Provide a pit for disposal of sewage from portable containers. If it becomes necessary, a remote area outside of the building should be set aside for storage of sewage.

## SEWER BACKUP (Dietary)

In the event of sewer back-up, in the Dietary Department, all food production and service in the department will be evaluated until the problem has been corrected and the area has been thoroughly sanitized.

### PROCEDURE

#### A. Notification

1. The Dietary Department Supervisor will contact the Maintenance department of the sewer back-up as soon as it occurs.
2. Maintenance will be responsible for correcting the problem or for contacting an outside plumbing company or service.
3. If the back-up is noticed early enough all moveable unaffected equipment would be removed from the effected area immediately.

#### B. Clean Up

1. After the problem has been resolved, the dishmachine and three section sink will be drained and refilled with fresh water. The third section of the sink will be filled with a hot water and strong bleach solution (1/2 and 1/2).
2. All dishes, pots, pans, and/or utensils in the affected area are to be thoroughly washed and sanitized.
3. The floor will be mopped up of the entire backup sewer. The contaminated mop head will be removed, and placed in a trash bag and disposed of. A "shop-vac" may also be used if back-up is excessive.
4. A new mop head will be used to re-mop the affected area of the floor using a bleach solution (3/4 cup bleach in 1 gallon warm water).
5. All shelves, tables, (including legs), lowerators and walls in the effected area will be sanitized with a 1/2 and 1/2 solution of hot water and bleach.
6. Food production may resume only after the above sanitizing has been completed.
7. Any food items in the affected area must be checked for contamination, open or wet containers must be disposed of.

#### C. GAS

1. **HEAT (also see protocol for extreme cold)**
  - a. Complete loss-transfer residents if necessary depending on weather and length of time of loss.
  - b. Revert to another supply or means of heat if necessary.
  - c. CONSERVATION:
    - 1) Shut down unnecessary rooms.
    - 2) Wear several layers of loose fitting clothes.
    - 3) Group residents into larger rooms or their own, whichever is better.
    - 4) Keep residents occupied with bingo, cards, exercise programs, sing-a-longs, etc.
  - d. Contact the Red Cross (886-7500) and Salvation Army (883-9800) and other facilities for extra blankets if necessary.

## 2. COOKING

- a. There are enough edibles that do not require cooking to service the home for three (3) days. Emergency menus have been developed.

### **INSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING MEAL PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING MEAL:**

**BREAKFAST:** Orange Juice (4) ozs.  
 Cold Cereal and 1 carton of milk (8) ozs.  
 Coffee (If electric power is available) (8) ozs.  
 Toast & margarine (If electric power is available) or  
 Bread & margarine

### **DINNER & SUPPER MEALS**

Soup (Any kind) 4 oz.

Cold cut (1oz.) and cheese (1oz.) of peanut butter &  
 jelly sandwich

Tossed salad with dressing (1/2 c. – 1 oz.)

Ice cream or canned fruit (1/2 c.)

Coffee, tea, milk

- All of the above menus will depend on if you have gas, electric power and manpower to use.
- If there is no electrical power or the auxiliary generator is on, do not use the dish machine. Use only disposable paper products.
- Be concerned with special diets and puree diets. If at all possible, make puree foods for each meal. Use the (RED) emergency electrical outlet to operate the blender if auxiliary generator is operating.
- If necessary, recruit help from other departments to assist in the preparation of and service of food to the residents.

## **D. ELECTRICITY**

*Loss of electrical services may be the result of natural disasters, industrial accidents at power generation facilities, or damage to power transmission systems. Natural hazards and weather-related incidents that often cause with power outages include: coastal storms; floods; tornados; and blizzards/ice storms.*

- a. In the event of a power failure, the emergency generator will come on automatically. Should it fail to do so, generator may be turned manually by following directions on generator. If the generator still will not start, contact the Penn Power to either repair generator promptly or provide facility with a rental generator.
- b. The electrical outlets in the hallways marked with red plates are on generator power. The heat will remain on with generator power.
- c. Cooking - some lights in the kitchen and the dishwasher will not function on emergency power and adjustments will be made to deal with these losses.
- d. Oxygen Concentrators - In the event of an electrical interruption and the facility is on generator power:
  1. Either switch residents who are on Concentrators and use a portable emergency tank of O<sub>2</sub> or,
  2. Plug O<sub>2</sub> Concentrator into an emergency power wall socket (indicated by a red outlet cover) Extension cords are available in Maintenance.
  3. In the event the generator fails, all residents using O<sub>2</sub> concentrators will be placed on portable emergency O<sub>2</sub> tanks.

E. **FIRE SAFETY** In the event of loss of power, smoke doors will close but all alarm bells and heat and smoke detectors located throughout the building will remain operational. In this event, the staff shall:

1. Increase frequency of nursing rounds to assure that resident needs are being met, as well as fire safety.
2. In the event of fire, normal procedures must be followed, however, since the P.A. system will be inoperable, in order to alarm the rest of the building, a runner must be sent to the Incident Command Center, and from there to all other units, to assure that all staff are aware of the situation.

F. **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

1. Flashlights are at each nursing station. If power loss occurs during the night, the Nursing Supervisor should make sure that all staff are aware of the location of the flashlights and that all flashlights are functional.
2. Additional flashlights, lanterns and/or batteries are available through the Maintenance Department or Emergency Tote.
3. Nursing staff must identify all residents requiring special care and/or treatments by use of equipment such as suctioning machines, feeding pumps, etc. and consider them for possible transfer to a hospital should there be the potential for a sustained power outage.

4. Nursing staff may have to utilize the use of a Mechanical Lift to remove residents from the whirlpool tubs.
5. If power loss occurs during the winter or cold weather, the staff should:
  - a. Conserve heat by closing all windows and drapes throughout the building and doors to common areas (i.e., dining rooms, lounges, etc.).
  - b. Distribute additional blankets to residents.
7. Dietary may need additional personnel to:
  - a. Deliver food to residents via the stairs(if applicable).
  - b. Prepare food (i.e., manually cut, mix, dice, etc.)
  - c. Manually wash dishes, utensils and equipment. Disposable dishes and silverware should be used, if possible. Dietary staff should keep the refrigerator/freezer doors shut as much as possible to keep food cold, and should utilize fresh foods before opening canned goods so as to minimize waste and spoilage (see Disaster Plan – Dietary Three Day Disaster Menu).
8. Dietary Staff should remember that even though the gas stove and fixed fire extinguisher over the stove would still be operational, the exhaust fan in the kitchen would not operate. Hence, it may be advisable to open the kitchen windows if able, in order to vent smoke and assure adequate airflow.
9. Ancillary staff should be available to assist Nursing and Dietary departments in the delivery of direct services to residents. Disbursement of ancillary staff is to be determined by the Disaster Coordinator.
10. When power fails and lights go out, good common sense should prevail. **Remain calm.** If with a resident, provide reassurance and proper care. Proceed to the Nursing station slowly and carefully, removing any objects from the hallway. Provide reassurance for any residents or visitors and ask them to remain where they are. Once at the Nursing Station, await further instructions from the nurse in charge. The nurse in charge should not send a runner to the Command Post unless they have a particular emergency. Floors should wait for a runner sent from the Command Post to inform them of the situation and give further instructions.
11. Flashlights and an extra box of batteries are kept in the Maintenance office. There are battery-powered radios available on the premises and electric radios can be plugged into an emergency outlet if needed.

#### 4. COMMUNICATIONS/ CELLULAR TELEPHONE

- a. Phones may be used to make in-house calls as they are on emergency power.
- b. Facility owned cellular phones may be used as back-up for emergency calls.
- c. There is a designated landline at the Reception Desk for use during power outages as well as a facility cell phone in the Nursing Supervisor's office.

#### IT Systems

*IT/Communications systems failure can impact the following critical systems: computer network; telephone network; on-site data storage; medical devices; medication replenishment; and HVAC system.*

*An IT/communications failure incident may hinder standard notification methods. Alternate forms of notification with staff, residents and external agencies include: pagers, hand-held radios, runners, personal cell phones, and social media.*

**STANDARD:** The facility maintains documentation of residents status and progress with care.

**POLICY:**

- A server is defined as a computer that provides one or more services to multiple users or other computers.
- In the event that the operation of any server causes disruption to network services, the Information Technology and Clinical Information Services support staff will take action to rectify the situation.
- In order to maintain continuity of clinical documentation, alternate documentation systems will be implemented as per COMPUTERIZED MEDICAL RECORDS Policy 10.14

**PROCEDURE:**

**Planned Downtime:**

1. Advanced notification (more than 72 hours) of facility staff via e-mail to Administrator, DNS (minimally) & the Administrative Secretary for posting in the Supervisors office. Also, a reminder notice will be sent the day of scheduled down-time.
2. Planned downtime (*less than 10 minutes*) will be scheduled after 4:30 PM.
3. Planned downtime (*in excess of 10 minutes*) will be scheduled after 11:30 PM.
4. Adjustments to the above noted time-frames will be approved by the Vice President.
5. The CIS Coordinator an/or AR Systems Coordinator will generate the e-mail.

**Unplanned Downtime:** An e-mail notice will be sent notifying administrative staff of software affected as well as identification of problem, proposed resolution and estimated time programs will not be accessible. IT Services will then notify the CIS Coordinator an/or AR Systems Coordinator immediately.

IT staff will notify Facility via phone:

1. Business hours M – F: IT staff or CIS staff will contact the Administrative Secretary by phone who will then make an announcement that Care Organizer is not available.
2. After business hours: IT staff or CIS Trainer will contact the Nursing Supervisor who will then make an announcement that Care organizer is not available.

IT staff will notify facilities via e-mail: HelpDesk will generate an E-mail notice (set for high importance “!”) to the following:

- Vice President
- CIS Training
- Facility(s) Administrator & Director of Nursing
- TMG MSA Coordinator
- AR Manager & AR Systems Coordinator

**Logging of Planned or Unplanned downtime:**

1. A record of Clinical Downtime (both planned & unplanned) will be recorded by IT, CIS and/or A/R coordinators in Public Folders *Disruption of Services File*. Whoever identifies the incident is responsible for logging the downtime.
2. Log will contain the following:
  - a. date/time of service disruption
  - b. Cause of disruption of services
  - c. Services affected
  - d. Resolution

**POLICY:**

- Computerized records are an acceptable form of medical record management.
- Computerized records may be used by this facility in lieu of hard provided they are **clear, complete, accurate, timely and properly authenticated.**
- Copying & Pasting from previous Progress Notes is not an acceptable standard of practice and is not sanctioned by TMG policy.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The administrator, in conjunction with the Director of HIM and Quality Assurance Committee, will review and approve requests for and implementation of computerized medical record systems as progress is made in this direction.
2. Only personnel with a "need to know" are issued a password and will be permitted access to the resident's medical records. Restrictions will apply to ability to document in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR).
3. The System Analyst and department head will determine what areas the individual needs access to on the computer system. This access must be approved by the Chief Financial Officer and

Administrator prior to being authorized and established.

4. When personnel changes occur, or if there is reason to believe that unauthorized access has occurred, the System manager will be notified by the Personnel Office for user name and password inactivated.
5. To prevent unauthorized access, password changes will be made at the discretion of the Administrator.
4. Authorized Federal and State survey agencies may be authorized entry into the computerized medical records.
8. The computerized medical record system of this facility:
  - a. has safeguards to prevent unauthorized access;
  - b. has individual identifiers to assure only authorized persons enter appropriate data;
  - c. records each entry (date/time) into the medical record at the time of entry;
  - d. will not permit a change in the record once it has been recorded. Exceptions: resident demographic changes; information changes on resident Face Sheet; financial status changes, as permitted in hand-written records.
  - e. controls what sections/areas each identifier may access.

#### **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE:**

Facility system and software products including electronic signatures are protected against modification. Each provider is given a username and password unique and accessible only by that provider. The provider bears the responsibility for the authenticity of the information for which they have attested to. In the event that the provider did not electronically sign a document or suspects tampering, immediate notification to the Corporate Compliance officer is required. Suspension of the account will take place and immediate investigation conducted.

#### **LOSS OF ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD SERVICES:**

In the event connectivity to the TMG servers is lost, the following alternate documentation systems will be implemented:



- as designated by the facility Administrator.
- b. Central EMR access will be granted to all authorized staff on a 24 hour basis.
3. *Care Plans* will be printed and placed in the unit care plan binder.

### **Hazard Annex M: Influx/Surge of Residents from Community**

In the event of a wide spread emergency and/or disaster the facility may be asked to take in additional non-acute patients from area hospitals so that they may take care of more acute patients. In this case family members may be called upon to care for their family members at home temporarily. A family member will be asked if they are willing and/or able to assist in this capacity upon admission.

#### **POLICY:**

- The Social Worker will ascertain if the resident can return to a family member's residence on a temporary basis and note this on the Care Plan.
- All Sub-acute patients are assumed to be able to surge to their previous location in the community.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

##### **Activation and Preparation**

##### **Initial Contact to Receive Residents**

- Phone contact with the facility may be through an automatic messaging communication system or via a personal call. When an automatic message is received, the individual taking the call should immediately document the entire message. If receiving a personal call, the call should be forwarded to the on-site individual in-charge of the facility at the time. When receiving a personal call, attempt to obtain the following information:
  - Sending facility name, contact phone number(s) and contact name
  - Total number of arriving residents
  - Estimated time of arrival
  - Gender breakdown

- Number of arriving residents requiring wandering precautions
- Arriving residents requiring specialized medical needs (isolation, dietary, infection control)
- Resident medical equipment needs (cannot accept residents on life support or ventilator)
- Quantity and type of medical equipment arriving with residents
- Quantity and type (clinical or not) of staff arriving with residents
- Will medications accompany residents
- Will charts accompany residents
- Need for the receiving facility to provide transportation (identify what type of transportation is available and any specialized capacity)
- Relay all information to the on-site individual in-charge of the facility at the time.

### **Internal Notification**

- Notify the Administrator and/or the Director of Nursing Services.
- Administrator/Designee – Contact department heads and Medical Director.

### **Incident Command**

- Activate Incident Command System.
- Identify Incident Command Center location
- Utilize Nursing Supervisor Cell Phone as Command Center contact number.

### **Census and Resident Capacity**

- Determine the up-to-date facility census and identify the number of open conventional beds and types of beds (sub-acute, dementia, isolation, etc.).
- If the total number of arriving residents can be addressed through open beds within the licensed bed capacity of the facility, review **Utilizing Existing Licensed Beds**.
- If the total number of arriving residents exceeds the open beds available within the licensed bed capacity, review **Surging Beyond Licensed Bed Capacity**.

### **Staffing**

- Determine the need to call-in additional staffing.
- Attempt to identify the quantity and type (RN, LPN, CNA, Ancillary) of staff that may be provided by the sending facility. They may work in tandem with facility staff or may provide all clinical care without assistance. Additional ancillary staff such as food service, housekeeping and maintenance will probably be required throughout the situation. Any non-clinical staff can work in an Ancillary Staff capacity as needed.
- Maintain staff to resident ratios necessary to meet resident needs throughout the duration of the situation.

### **Supplies**

- Conduct a baseline inventory of all supplies with specific focus on the following departments:
  - Food Service – types and quantity of food and beverage

- Nursing – types and quantity of medical equipment (pumps, oxygen cylinders/concentrators, oxygen tubing/cannulas/masks, etc.) and medications
- Housekeeping / Laundry – quantity of linens
- Maintenance – types and quantities of beds, mattresses, privacy dividers, etc.

Reference: **Influx / Surge Equipment Storage Worksheet (8.2.13.1.A)**

- Assess the type and quantity of equipment / supplies that will be arriving from the evacuating facility if possible.
  - Contact other TMG facilities and/or facility vendors to request additional supplies as necessary.
- Reference: **Influx / Surge Supply Vendor List. (8.2.13.1.B)**

### External Communications

- Initially communicate with the NY Department of Health.
  - Notify DOH of impending surge of evacuated residents.
  - Report number of residents to be received, sending facility name/contact and current census (before arrival of surge residents)
  - Request permission to surge beyond licensed bed capacity if necessary.
  - Provide on-going periodic updates as necessary.
- Update point of contact from sending facility regarding surged resident status.
- Establish protocol with sending facility for periodic contact/updates to surged resident responsible parties and attending physicians. Sending facility may be temporarily unable to contact responsible parties, therefore, receiving facility may need to coordinate updates.
- Notify key stakeholders as appropriate including Local Office of Emergency Management, Local Fire & EMS, and the facility Ombudsmen. Provide on-going periodic updates as necessary.

### Resident Triage

- Establish a triage area located in Main Dining Room.
- Administrator will designate an individual to oversee the set-up and operations of the triage area.
- Ensure adequate staffing and supplies at the triage location. The following staff/supplies should be included during the triage process:
  - Staffing
    - Nursing / Resident Care (triage, managing care)
    - Social Work
    - Food Service (food and beverage)
    - Administrative (tracking and documentation)
  - Supplies
    - Chairs / wheelchairs
    - Pens, paper, nametags, charting materials
    - Food and beverage
    - Medications
    - Portable oxygen (cylinders, tubing, cannulas, etc.)
    - Blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes
    - Standard precautions equipment
    - Hand sanitizer
- Document the arrival of all residents as they enter the triage area.
  - Utilize **Influx of Residents Log (8.2.13.1.C)**

- Utilize eFinds system as per facility/TMG policy (8.13.2)
- Triage each arriving resident. If arriving residents do not arrive with a completed Resident Evacuation Tag (Disaster Tag), attempt to minimally collect and document the following information on each resident:
  - Name
  - Age
  - Responsible party
  - Medical diagnosis
  - Medication allergies
  - Other known allergies
  - Diet restrictions / last meal
  - Medications / last administered
  - Mental status
  - Mobility
  - Hearing impairments
  - Dialysis needs
  - Special precautions, procedures or equipment
  - Valuables with the resident
- Complete an initial nursing assessment of each arriving resident. Review any available medical records that accompanied the resident. Include as part of the assessment of arriving residents a determination of any history of unsafe behaviors that will require an increased level of supervision (i.e. elopement, aggressive behaviors, and resident to resident altercations). Establish an interim plan of care for each resident as appropriate. Establish a new chart if necessary.

### **Food and Nutrition**

- Modify planned menus as necessary to accommodate the additional residents.
- Maintain food supplies and provide meals for residents, additional staff, and possibly families.

### **Media and Families**

- Administrator will designate an individual to prepare and provide statements to the media and to families.
- Coordinate statements with the evacuating facility and emergency agencies.
- Separate staging locations (internal or external) for media and family members should be established.
- Attempt to unify families / responsible parties with residents as quickly as possible.

### **Resident Tracking**

- Communicate with the sending facility the total number of residents received along with the specific name of each resident received.
- Utilize NYDOH eFinds system to track location of all residents.
- Surged residents must be scanned into eFinds at every step of the transfer process.
  - Leaving the sending facility
  - Arrival at stop over point (if necessary)
  - Departure from the stop over point
  - Arriving at the receiving facility

- Departure from the receiving facility
  - Return to the original sending facility
- Resident tracking tags, if utilized, should be with the resident at all times throughout the transfer process.

### **Arriving Staff and Staff Credentialing**

- Review and confirm arriving staff have ID badges provided by the facility where they are employed.
- Log in sending facility staff as they arrive.
- Facility/TMG staff will punch in to Kronos upon arrival at the facility.
- Provide temporary facility ID if necessary.
- Administrator/designee will determine where and to whom arriving staff are to report.
- Disaster privileges/credentialing to incoming medical/clinical personnel may be granted upon presentation of a valid government issued photo ID (i.e. driver's license or passport), and any of the following:
  - A current picture ID or other ID card from a Hospital / NH / AL / RH.
  - A current license certification or registration to practice and a valid picture ID issued by a state, federal or regulatory agency.
  - Identification indicating that the individual is a member of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) or Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).
  - Identification indicating that the individual has been granted authority to render resident care in emergency circumstances. Such authority having been granted by a federal, state or municipal entity.
  - Presentation by current organizational staff member(s) with personal knowledge of the practitioner's identity.
  - Refer to Policy 8.2.01 Emergency Preparedness Plan for 1135 waiver for additional information for Medical Volunteers.

### **Finance**

- Administrator/designee will monitor all costs and resources utilized throughout the duration of the situation.
- Maintain receipts for purchases directly related to the situation.

### **Utilizing Existing Licensed Beds**

#### **Resident Placement**

- Admissions/Supervisor will verify the quantity and location of open beds throughout the facility.
  - Do not consider beds that are being held for a confirmed admission.
- Ensure available rooms / beds are prepped for use.

- When feasible, utilize open beds that are proximal to each other to avoid scattering surged residents throughout the facility.

### **Continuing Care**

- Monitor received resident behaviors and psychological status. Provide additional medically related social services support as needed.
- Incorporate into resident activities as appropriate.
- Communicate with attending physicians as necessary.
- Provide consistent services and support to residents facility wide.
- Coordinate transportation needs for clinical services such as dialysis, medical appointments, etc. as needed.
- Monitor the impact of the influx on existing residents. Provide additional medically related social services support as necessary.

## **Surging Beyond Licensed Bed Capacity**

### **Resident Placement**

- Verify the quantity and location of open beds throughout the facility. Utilize open beds as the first phase of resident placement. The establishment of surge areas will address the second phase of resident placement.
  - Do not consider beds that are being held for a confirmed admission.
- When feasible, utilize open beds that are proximal to each other to avoid scattering residents throughout the facility.

### **OPTIONS FOR INCREASING CAPACITY**

- Identify options to transform non-sleeping areas into temporary sleeping / resident care areas. The following areas are appropriate to convert into sleeping areas:
  - Activity Rooms
  - Lounges
  - Dining Rooms
  - Conference Rooms
  - Therapy Rooms
  - Administrative offices

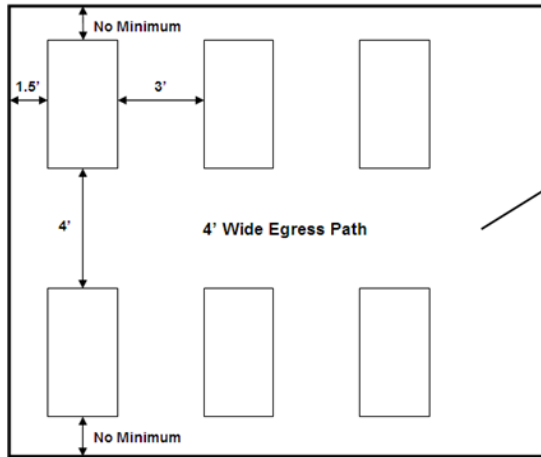
Reference: **Surge Planning Worksheet**

- Identify areas served with emergency power to support residents requiring critical electric medical equipment.

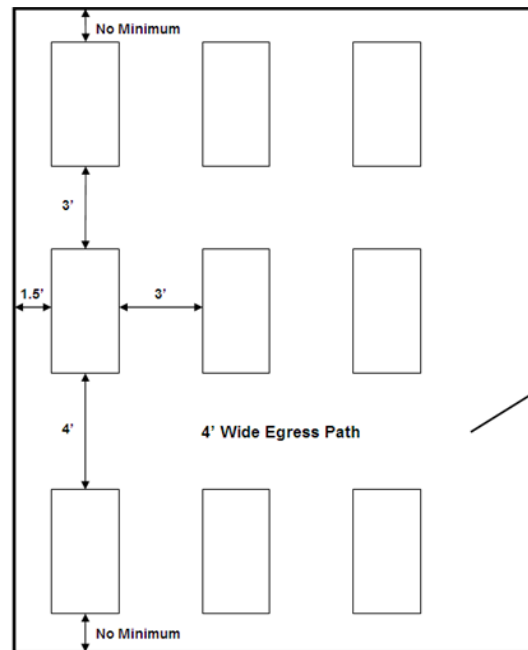
### **Surge Area Set Up**

- Based on the **Surge Planning Worksheet** (8.2.13.1.D), set-up surge locations based on priority. Utilize internal available supplies first. Utilize the following options to obtain additional supplies as needed:

- Vendors
- Supplies from the resident sending facility
- Other TMG Facilities
- Local Office of Emergency Management/Emergency Response Organizations
- Establish groupings of beds or medical cots. Medical cots should only be used as a second option and after a proper nursing assessment has deemed a cot to be appropriate. As a last alternative, in an emergent situation, use mattresses for a short period of time until beds or cots can be obtained. Always consider resident needs based on the nursing assessment (particularly as it relates to bed sore concerns). Examples of emergent situations include:
  - Situations where immediate sheltering is needed. This may include an isolated single facility evacuation or a regional event resulting in evacuation.
  - Situations affecting infrastructure and transportation routes. This may include situations where extended travel is unsafe due to road conditions and/or weather conditions.
  - Situations that limit transportation resources. This may include scenarios where transportation resources (including EMS) are overwhelmed and transport over extended distances is impractical.
- Place privacy dividers between beds, cots or mattresses.
- Provide night lighting in each surge area.
- Provide call devices for each resident (tap bells will be necessary in areas not serviced by an electronic nurse call system).
- Designate toilet and wash sink locations for each established surge area.
- Provide storage areas for resident belongings and personal needs equipment. Key personal belongings such as eye glasses, hearing aids, prosthesis, dentures, etc. should be located proximal to the resident. Other items such as clothing, shoes, etc. Should be labeled/identified and may be stored in a separate location.
- Establish one or more provisional work station(s) located within or near surge areas.
- Provide constant (24/7) clinical staffing in surge areas located outside of normal resident care areas.
- Ensure all surge arrangements do not impede egress or reduce life safety. Consider the following guidelines:
  - Maintain three (3) feet between beds/cots/mattresses
  - Maintain four (4) foot egress paths to the exit access corridor
  - Maintain 1.5 feet between the perimeter wall and the side of a bed/cot/mattress.
    - See sample diagram below:



Sample Layout #1



Sample Layout #2

### Medications and Medical Records

- The Director of Nursing and Pharmacy Consultant will develop and designate specific storage locations for resident medications and medical records.
- Normal controlled substance security standards must be maintained at all times.
- Account for all medications.

### Continuing Care

- Monitor resident toilet needs and ensure proper staff is available to accompany residents to toilet facilities.
- Attempt to limit resident to toilet ratios to 10:1
- Develop a bathing schedule based on the available bathing facilities as needed.
- Maintain infection control standards. Provide an appropriate level of isolation / containment as needed.
- Monitor resident psychological status. Provide additional social services support as needed.
- Provide resident activities.
- Coordinate transportation needs for clinical services such as dialysis, medical appointments, etc. as needed.
- Communicate with attending physicians as necessary.
- Administrator/Designee will establish a process for constant monitoring of surge areas.

## Hazard Annex N: Bomb Threat

### 1. Receipt of Bomb Threat

#### a. Telephone Communication

1. Should a bomb threat be received by telephone, the person taking the call shall immediately institute the following procedures:
  - a. Remain calm. Do not panic.
  - b. Keep the caller on the line as long as possible.
  - c. Record, as near as possible, every word spoken by the person calling. (Utilize the "Directions for BOMB THREAT Telephone Communication" form 8.2.08.A)
  - d. If the caller does not give the location of the bomb, or when it is set to detonate, ask the caller to give you this information.
  - e. Tell the caller that the building is occupied and serious injury or death could result if this information is not obtained.
  - f. Listen for any strange or unusual background noises such as music playing, motors running, traffic sounds, etc., which might be helpful in providing clues to determine from where the call was made.
  - g. Determine whether the voice is male or female, familiar or unfamiliar, and listen for any accents, speech impairments, nervousness, etc.
  - h. Record as much information as you possibly can. You may not be able to get everything, but **do** get all you can.
  - i. **Remember, remain calm. Do not panic. Panic will cause confusion.**
2. Immediately after the caller hangs up, contact the **Police Department** (Dial 911) and relay as much information as possible.
3. Once the police department has been notified, contact the person in charge at the time, and relay to him/her all information received and that the Police Department has been notified.

#### b. Other Communication or Sources:

- (1) Whenever a Bomb Threat is received by means other than telephone communication, the person receiving the information shall immediately contact the **Police Department** and relay to them as much information as possible.
- (2) Once the police department has been notified, contact the Administrator, Supervisor, or the person in charge at the time, and relay all such information to him/her.
- (3) As much information as can be ascertained from the bomb threat shall be recorded on the appropriate forms.
- (4) All information pertaining to the bomb threat shall be provided to the authorities

when they arrive on the scene.

- (5) **All** threats shall be treated as an actual bomb placement within the building and proper procedures shall be implemented immediately.

## 2. **Evacuation Procedures:**

- a. The person in charge at the time, shall make the determination whether or not to evacuate the premises when a bomb threat is received.
- b. The decision **not** to evacuate the premises shall be determined by the advice received from local law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction over such matters. Their input shall be given a great deal of consideration when the decision to evacuate or not becomes necessary.
- c. When the decision has been made to evacuate the premises, **EXIT ROUTES** to be **used**, shall **first** be inspected and declared safe for evacuation. **This must be completed prior to ordering evacuation.** (Evacuation shall be conducted in accordance with our procedures outlined in Appendix A of this chapter.)
- d. When evacuation has been ordered **only** those **exits** declared **safe** should be used.
- e. Pre-assigned personnel, or as may be assigned, shall be responsible for assuring that exit routes are safe.
- f. Evacuation procedures must be conducted in an orderly manner to assure the safety and well being of all those on the premises.
- g. During evacuation procedures, if possible, leave all windows and doors **open**. This will minimize damage in the event an explosion occurs.
- h. Once evacuation is ordered all persons shall assemble in their designated assembly areas.
- i. Once persons have assembled **no one is to return to the building, for any reason, until an "ALL CLEAR" has been given by authorities conducting the search.**

## 3. **Alarm Signals:**

- j. Code Alarm Bomb Threats shall be announced over the intercom, or by word of mouth, throughout the entire building.
- k. **Sounding the Alarm-Evacuation of Premises**
  - When evacuation is ordered, you must evacuate **only** through those **exits** declared safe.
  - The person in charge shall have the responsibility of assuring that all persons have been evacuated from the premises prior to leaving the building.

## 4. **Floor Plans:**

- a. A floor plan of this building has been designed to show the general layout and is located in the Fire Manual.
- b. The floor plan indicates all exits, storage rooms, boiler rooms, maintenance and work areas, hazardous areas, restrooms, lounges, office areas, and assembly areas.
- c. Floor plans are posted so that all persons may have the opportunity to review such plans from time to time.

## 5. **Availability of Keys:**

- a. The facility designee, or person in charge, shall make available to search parties all keys to locked rooms being searched.

- b. The person in charge, may assist search commanders during the search so that his/her knowledge of the keys and floor area can be used to expedite the search.

**6. Chain of Command:**

- a. The chain of command shall be followed by all personnel during bomb threat procedures.
- b. The person in charge at the time a bomb threat is received, shall remain in charge until someone higher up in the chain of command arrives and relieves them or until the local authorities arrive and take command of the situation.

**7. Law Enforcement Responsibility:**

- a. Immediately upon arriving at the scene, the person in charge shall relinquish all authority to the search commander and provide any assistance or information needed.
- b. The local law enforcement agency, having jurisdiction over such matters, shall be responsible for the orderly search of the building and investigation of bomb threats received.

**8. Locating Suspicious Objects:**

- a. Should a suspicious object be located, do not move, jar or touch the object or anything attached to it. Leave it exactly the way you found it.
- b. Immediately upon discovering a suspicious object, notify the search team leader and follow the instructions.
- c. Once the search commander or search team leader has arrived at your location, the decision shall be made as to whether or not to continue searching for other objects.
- d. If the decision is to continue searching, the area in which the object is located shall be roped off if the object has not been removed, and only authorized law enforcement officials shall remain or have access to the area.
- e. **Remember, follow the instructions of the search commander or search team leader. Do not attempt to do anything else.**

**9. Removal of Suspicious Objects:**

- a. Once the search is completed, or has been terminated by the search commander, all employees participating in the search shall leave the premises, unless otherwise instructed by the search commander, and return to the assembly areas designated during the evacuation process.
- b. Only authorized law enforcement officials shall remain in the building during the removal of the suspicious object(s) and such agencies shall direct the removal as quickly as possible.
- c. A pre-selected area, designated for removing the object(s) found, shall be designated, by the search commander, **prior** to the removal of such object(s). This area shall be away from designated assembly areas, as many buildings as possible, and shall be kept clear of all unauthorized personnel at all times.

**10. Notification of Area Hospitals:**

- a. When a Bomb Threat is received, the person in charge, or his/her designee, shall notify area hospitals that the office has received a Bomb Threat and a possibility of injuries exists.
- b. The person making such calls shall relay **only** that information, and **shall not** answer any questions related to the Bomb Threat at all.

- c. When an "**ALL CLEAR**" has been given to re-enter the building, the person in charge, or his/her designee, shall notify area hospitals that the alert has been canceled and that no injuries exist.

#### 11. All Clear Signals:

- a. After the search has been completed, and/or the suspicious object(s) have been removed, an "**ALL CLEAR**" shall be announced by the search commander.
- b. No person(s) shall be allowed to re-enter the building, **for any reason**, until an "**ALL CLEAR**" signal has been issued.

#### 12. Telephone Procedures:

- a. The person answering the telephone shall not give out any information, unless so authorized, concerning the Bomb Threat to any caller. Simply state, "I'm sorry, I'm not authorized to release that information." If such calls persist, refer the caller to the office manager or person in charge.
- b. Telephone lines must remain open so that emergency information can be relayed without necessary delays.
- c. Utilize the "Directions for BOMB THREAT Telephone Communication" form 8.2.08.A.

#### 13. Areas to be Searched in the Event of a Bomb Threat

All resident rooms, bathrooms, offices, tub rooms, central storage area,  
boiler/maintenance rooms, nourishment rooms, medication rooms

Cupboards  
Drawers  
Closets/clothing  
Waste containers  
Refrigerators  
Linen Barrels  
Laundry/Trash Chutes  
Lockers  
Desks  
File Cabinets  
Autoclave  
Tubs/Showers  
Fire Extinguisher Boxes

#### **Directions for BOMB THREAT Telephone Communication**

*Should a bomb threat be received by telephone, the person taking the call shall immediately institute the following procedures:*

- a. **Remain calm.** Do not panic. Contact Supervisor or Security, IF POSSIBLE
- b. **Keep the caller on the line** as long as possible.
- c. **Record, as near as possible, every word spoken** by the person calling.

**Telephone Record of Bomb Threat – Questions**

- Note exact time of call: \_\_\_\_\_
- When will the bomb go off? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where is the bomb? \_\_\_\_\_
- What kind of bomb is it? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why was it placed? \_\_\_\_\_

*Tell them people are in the area who will get hurt. Tell the caller that the building is occupied and serious injury or death could result if this information is not obtained.*

- Ask who is calling: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ask their location: Close - Inside Building - Far - Phone Booth \_\_\_\_\_  
*Listen for any strange or unusual background noises such as music playing, motors running, traffic sounds, paging, airplanes etc.*
- Voice: Accent / Intoxicated / Stutter / Slur / Lisp / Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Attitude : Rational / Nervous / Calm / Angry \_\_\_\_\_
- Caller's Identification: Male / Female, Under 20 / Over 20 / Over 32 \_\_\_\_\_  
Black / White / Hispanic / Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Did caller seem familiar with the building, such as: it is on the sub-acute unit or unit A? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Atmosphere, rain, thunder: \_\_\_\_\_**

Additional Comments:

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Immediately after the caller hangs up, contact the **Police Department** (Dial 911) and relay as much information as possible. Once the police department has been notified, contact the person in charge at the time, and relay to him/her all information received and that the Police Department has been notified.

## Hazard Annex O: Tornado/High Winds

*A tornado is a violently rotating column of air touching the ground, usually attached to the base of a thunderstorm. Winds of a tornado may reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.*

**High Wind Warning:** Issued by the NWS when high wind speeds may pose a hazard or be considered life threatening. The criteria for this warning varies from state to state. In many states, the criteria is sustained non-convective (not related to thunderstorms) winds greater than or equal to 40 mph lasting for one hour or longer, or winds greater than or equal to 58 mph for any duration.

**Tornado Watch:** Issued by the NWS to alert the public that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. These watches are issued with information concerning the watch area and the length of time they are in effect.

**Tornado Warning:** Issued by the NWS to warn the public that a tornado has been sighted by storm spotters, law enforcement, or has been indicated by radar. These warnings are issued with information concerning where the tornado is presently located and which communities are in the anticipated path of the tornado.

<b>TORNADO WATCH</b>
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### GENERAL ACTIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND STAFF

- Monitor on-going weather conditions and reports. Monitor via the radio, television, internet, and/or weather radio.
- Review locations and quantities of emergency supplies for possible use (i.e. linens, water, food, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, flashlights, batteries, etc.).
- If there is adequate time to respond, request/obtain additional supplies as appropriate.
- Identify safe areas (inside hallways and windowless rooms) within the building where patients and staff could be placed during a Tornado Warning.

### ADMINISTRATION / INCIDENT COMMANDER

- Activate the Incident Command System and establish a Command Center to monitor and manage the situation.
- Monitor on-going weather conditions and reports. Monitor via the radio, television, internet, and/or weather radio.

- Communicate throughout the building/campus that a “tornado watch” is in effect. Provide continual updates on weather conditions and reports.
- Ensure all departments/units have tornado procedures available for review and implementation.
- Consider the need to alter current staffing. Monitor shift changes. Encourage staff to remain in the building if exterior conditions may be dangerous.

### **MAINTENANCE / ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

- Conduct a sweep of the exterior of the building/campus. Where practical, secure items that could serve as projectiles in a tornado or high wind situation (i.e. chairs, tables, trash receptacles, signs, etc.).
- Where applicable, temporarily remove or secure exterior canopies, antennas and satellite dishes.
- Isolate or remove any chemicals that can react violently with each other (refer to MSDS).
- Review how to shut down utilities should it be necessary. Ensure necessary tools are available.
- Inspect the generator and generator transfer switch(s). Assess battery lighting.
- Time permitting, top off generator fuel, if necessary.
- Ensure that all exterior doors and windows are latched.
- Determine the need to cover or tape any unique door/window assemblies.
- Brace large doors at shipping and receiving docks.
- Ensure that roof and outdoor drains are free from debris in order to handle heavy rains.
- Fill tubs and sinks with water.
- Consider enhancing on-site staffing.

### **NURSING**

- Conduct a sweep of the exterior of the building/campus and bring all patients, visitors and staff back into the building.
- Close all windows, window curtains / blinds, and cubicle curtains.
- Remove items from window ledges and pictures from walls. Remove other items that may serve as a projective within a room. Secure items in closets or other enclosed spaces.
- Place beds in low position.

<b>TORNADO WARNING</b>
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### **GENERAL ACTIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND STAFF**

- Closely monitor weather reports, tornado warning areas, and information on tornado location(s) and predicted paths. Monitor via the radio, television, internet, and/or weather radio.
- If the building is in or near the projected path of a tornado, place patients into corridors and/or windowless rooms.

### **ADMINISTRATION / INCIDENT COMMANDER**

- Closely monitor weather reports, tornado warning areas, and information on tornado location(s) and predicted paths. Monitor via the radio, television, internet, and/or weather radio.

- Communicate throughout the building/campus that a “tornado warning” is in effect. Provide continual updates on whether or not a tornado is anticipated to affect the building/campus.
- If the building is in or near the projected path of a tornado, instruct staff to place patients into corridors and/or windowless rooms.

## **NURSING**

- Place patients into internal corridors or windowless rooms if time permits.
- If patients are sitting in chairs, place a pillow on their laps. For patients who must be in the prone position, slide the patient and mattress to the floor.
- If moving all patients is not practical, cover them with blankets, pillows, etc. to provide protection from flying debris.

<b>RECOVERY</b>
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## **ADMINISTRATION / INCIDENT COMMANDER**

- Communicate with local emergency services regarding your status and needs.
- Request an assessment of the structure.
- Activate the Full Building Evacuation Plan if the structure can no longer support patient care.
- Assess departmental operations.
- Assess staffing needs. Initiate disaster staffing procedures as necessary.
- Assess communication abilities and needs.
- Prepare communications to families and media regarding facility status.
- Determine what other procedures may need to be implemented. This may include (but not limited to):
  - Loss of HVAC (air conditioning or heating)
  - Loss of Water
  - Loss of Cooking
  - Loss of Communications
  - Loss of Electric
  - Loss of Sewer (Toilet)
  - Loss of Natural Gas
  - Contamination of The Outside Air
  - Hazardous Materials / Chemical Spill
  - Disaster Staffing

## **MAINTENANCE / ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

- Secure utilities as necessary.
- Perform an immediate assessment of structural damage in the area. Report findings to the Command Center.
- Monitor emergency generator if it is being utilized.

**NURSING**

- Perform an immediate assessment of patients, visitors and staff for injuries.
- Triage and treat as appropriate.
- Move patients away from damaged areas as best as possible.

**Hazard Annex P: Loss of Resident/Missing Resident**

To facilitate the resident's prompt and safe return to his or her unit.

**POLICY:**

- All staff will be able to follow an organized plan to enable us to locate a missing resident as quickly as possible.
- To ensure proper notification of the resident's family, the facility's administration and local authorities.

**DEFINITION:**

Elopement is the act of a resident who exits the facility property and grounds, unsupervised and without staff knowledge or permission.

**ELOPEMENT RESPONSE TEAM:**

The members of the Search Team include the following:

- *During normal business hours* All staff including Department Heads & Supervisors.
- *Off hours/Weekends* all nursing personnel and any other available staff, i.e., Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Dietary.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. As soon as a resident/patient is reported missing, the team leader on duty will alert all staff on duty via that page system. The code words will be:

**“Dr. Walker on unit \_\_\_ room \_\_\_”** (repeat a second time and concurrently call the front desk.)

**NOTE:** The Security Officer in the reception area can announce **“Dr. Walker assistance needed front desk”** for assistance if needed with a Wandergarded resident that is attempting to exit the building.

2. On hearing the page, all facility staff will begin a three person search team of the nursing units and their work area as noted below under “unit search”

### Unit Search

This search starts at the opposite corridors of the nursing unit, room by room, and concludes at the nursing station. All rooms and closets, lavatories, utility rooms and storerooms on the unit are included in the search. The corridors are searched simultaneously, with at least one person assigned per corridor, by the charge nurse, to search each of the two corridors. The Administrator (or designee) is notified of the search.

### **Departmental Search**

Dietary searches the kitchen, main dining room, dietary storerooms. Departmental/office staff conduct a search of their immediate work areas as well as any adjacent offices/rooms. Maintenance also verifies the correct functioning of door alarms. (In the absence of departmental/office staff, the nursing supervisor designates employees to conduct the searches.)

3. Maintenance or other persons as directed by the Administrator (or designee) will be sent to search the indoor service areas and the outside grounds as noted below under “Outside Facility Search”:

### Outside Facility Search

To ensure a timely search, and impede the possibility of injury, the Administrator (or designee) immediately sends staff outside:

- one will head immediately to the main road
- one to the back of the building
- one to the parking area (and adjacent lot of applicable) checking all the cars.

4. In the event the individual has not been found, it is the responsibility of the supervisor to notify the Administrator and Director of Nursing Services should they be off duty.
5. If the resident is not located within a reasonable period of time (as determined by the Administrator (or designee), the police and family are notified. Authorities will be provided with a picture of the resident.
6. The Administrator (or designee) continues a coordinated search with the police and community resources until the resident is found.
7. Pictures of residents assessed as high risk to wander out of the building will be kept at the front desk. Copies of available pictures will be made and distributed to staff members as indicated.
8. When resident is found:
  - Upon location of or return of the resident to the facility, the supervising nurse should:
    - Examine the resident for injuries
    - Contact the attending physician and report findings and conditions of the resident
    - Notify the residents legal/designated representative
    - Notify search teams (if applicable) that the resident has been found – page “Dr. Walker all clear” x 2
    - Complete an Accident/Incident form
    - Make appropriate entries into the resident’s Medical Record
    - Update/revise the care Plan as indicated

The code alert system is utilized to deter resident elopement, for residents with a history of elopement. Maintenance staff, nursing supervisor or staff in close proximity will respond to door alarm and ensure that resident did not elope.

### **Annex Q: Labor Action/Work Stoppage (Strike) Plan**

1. A Work Stoppage is a serious matter. This plan is to ensure provisions for the continuation of vital services for the residents.
2. When a Work Stoppage is imminent, the Administrator or designee, will meet with all key employees and request that they make arrangements to stay at the facility for the duration of the stoppage and carry on pre-planned duties assigned to them.
3. Department Heads will prepare to stock adequate supplies in advance due to possible obstruction of

delivery by striking employees. Supplies are to include, but not limited to, food, vital medical supplies and disposable linens. Food items will be of the type that requires a minimum of preparation. All supplies will be secured in the appropriate storage areas under lock and key.

4. Maintain a list of all current residents stating their County of residence, method of payment, responsible party, address and phone number. This list will be kept current in the Business Office.
5. See Sure Plan (8.2.13.1) for responsible party notification and determination if the family is able to take the resident home, or help with care in the facility, in case of Work Stoppage, if a Work Stoppage is imminent.
6. Maintain a list of facilities with whom we have Transfer Agreements and appropriate transportation providers to facilitate elective and emergency discharges and admissions during the strike period. See WNY Mutual Aid Plan
7. The facility will make arrangements to assure that solid and medical waste are properly removed and disposed of.
8. Contact commercial nursing and employment agencies and give advance notice that we may need their service during this period, and will keep a list of area agencies.
9. The facility will maintain a list of positions and FTE's by position and number of persons. Maintain current up-to-date record of all employees, complete with their position, address and phone number, in the Personnel/Payroll office.
10. Maintain a list of all associated voluntary organizations, volunteers and phone numbers. The Activities Director will contact these agencies and persons and apprise them of the imminence of a strike and determine who will be available to help.
11. The Administrator will apprise the local OHSM by telephone of the possibility of a strike.
12. Vehicles for transportation of staff, volunteers, supplies and waste disposal will be rented from Avis Rent A Car 800-331-1212.
13. The Director of Environmental Services will arrange for O2 delivery to ensure adequate supply.
14. If a Work Stoppage or Strike occurs, the Administrator's office will serve as the command post from which all control and direction of operation will funnel during the labor dispute. A copy of this policy, with all attachments, will be kept there for guidance and control. Front office personnel will man telephones to contact families, volunteers, employees, ambulance companies, local hospitals, Fire Department, Police Department and contact OFISM to keep them informed of progress of problems. The Administrator/designee will make a decision at which point to suspend admissions. The decision for emergency discharge of critically ill residents who require more skilled care than we can provide with family, will be made by the Medical Director in conjunction with the Director of Nursing and the attending physicians according to procedure for discharge of residents during emergency situation.
15. To provide security, all exterior doors will be on alarm and only designated persons will open the locked doors to prevent admittance of any hostile party. If necessary, the facility will employ a

temporary guard(s). All persons who enter the building will be required to provide identification, which will be checked and recorded, noting time entered and departed. Employees will be cautioned not to use the facility parking lots and will be met at a rendezvous point and will be transported by car or rented vehicles. If supplies are needed, all suppliers will be directed to meet rented vehicles at a rendezvous point. The local police Department will be notified of meeting site and times, for the protection of vendors, volunteers and employees.

16. Only vital services will be provided during the emergency. The priorities of direct resident care will be determined by the Director of Nursing, with the guidance of the Medical Director.
17. All temporary and key employees will be oriented and trained by the appropriate Department Head as follows:
  - a. Director of Nursing - Temporary nurse's aides and nurses, volunteers and key employees assigned to resident care.
  - b. Food Service Manager - Temporary staff, volunteers, key employees assigned to dietary duties.
  - c. Director of Environmental services - All temporary staff, volunteers and key employees assigned to laundry, housekeeping, maintenance and security duties.
  - d. Administrative Secretary - All temporary staff, volunteers, and key employees assigned to communication duties with employees, residents, relatives and other persons and agencies.
18. If the situation should deteriorate to such an extent as to constitute a threat to remaining residents' health or safety, the Administrator/designee, will arrange for the transfer of the residents to local hospitals and nursing Care facilities. See WNY Mutual Aid Plan.
19. Prior to and during a strike situation, any released information and to whom this will be released, will be at the discretion of the Administrator. No other person, unless directed by the Administrator, will make public any information in regards to the facility or the strike.

### **Annex R: Intruder/Unauthorized Entry**

#### **STANDARD**

**The McGuire Group** has a strong commitment to its residents and employees to provide a safe, healthy and secure work environment.

In the event of an unauthorized individual(s), the facility will follow a systematic approach to keep residents and employees out of harm's way.

PROCEDURE:

1. When an unauthorized individual(s) is identified in the facility, the front desk receptionist/designee is notified immediately.
2. The front desk receptionist pushes the ‘panic’ button (when appropriate to notify local law enforcement) located at the front desk and when able announces...”Intruder Alert” and the location that the unauthorized individual is. The announcement is said three times.
3. The front desk receptionist/designee sends out an e-mail to ‘All facility’ users, notifying them of the unauthorized intruder and the location.
4. Designated staff members as identified by the facility Administrator report immediately to the location.
  - a. All other staff, residents, family members and volunteers do not enter the location of the unauthorized individual(s).
  - b. Staff, residents, family members and/or volunteers in the area vacate immediately via the nearest exit or corridor away from the location of the unauthorized individual(s).
5. The Administrator determines when the situation is under control and the individual(s) is no longer a threat. The front desk receptionist/designee is notified and announces ‘Intruder Alert all clear’.

Reference Disaster Manual-Active Shooter.

Tips/Training for designated staff reporting to the location of the unauthorized individual:

<b>Do</b>	<b>Do Not</b>
Project calmness, move and speak slowly, quietly and confidently.	Use styles of communication that generate hostility such as apathy, brush off, coldness, condescension, going strictly by the rules or giving the run-around.
Be an empathetic listener: Encourage the person to talk and listen patiently.	Reject all of the individual’s demands from the start.
Focus your attention on the other person to let them know you are interested in what they have to say.	Pose in challenging stances such as standing directly opposite someone, hands on hips or crossing your arms.
Maintain a relaxed yet attentive posture and position yourself at a right angle rather than directly in front of the other person.	Avoid any physical contact, finger pointing or long periods of fixed eye contact.
Acknowledge the person’s feelings. Indicate that you can see he/she is upset.	Make sudden movements, which can be seen as threatening. Notice the tone, volume and rate of your speech.

Ask for small, specific favors such as asking the person to move to a quieter area.	Challenge, threaten, or dare the individual. Never belittle the person or make him/her feel foolish.
Establish ground rules if unreasonable behavior persists. Calmly describe the consequences of any violent behavior.	Criticize or act impatiently toward the agitated individual.
Use delaying tactics, which will give the person time to calm down.	Attempt to bargain with a threatening individual.
Be reassuring and point out choices. Break big problems into smaller, more manageable problems.	Try to make the situation seem less serious than it is.
Accept criticism in a positive way. When a complaint might be true, use statements like "You are probably right" or "It was my fault." If the criticism seems unwarranted, ask clarifying questions.	Make false statements or promises you cannot keep.
Ask for his/her recommendations. Repeat back to him/her what you feel he/she is requesting of you.	Try to impart a lot of technical or complicated information when emotions are high.
Arrange yourself so that the individual cannot block your access to an exit.	Take sides or agree with distortions.
	Invade the individual's personal space. Make sure there is a space of three feet to six feet between you and the person.

### **Annex S: Emergency Evacuation of Facility**

All residents will be evaluated for appropriate disposition.

#### **POLICY:**

- Those residents temporarily discharged from the facility will be considered on temporary leave.
- The current clinical record should be maintained intact on the resident care unit. Business Office records should have this notation on them as well.
- Resources from the WNY Health Care Mutual Aid Plan will be used as applicable.
- Refer to e-FINDS policy (8.2.13.2) for resident tracking.
- Planned evacuations will utilize the transportation assistance classification system.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Each resident's chart should have:
  - A physician's order granting temporary leave and
  - A nurse's note stating the date, time, destination, mode of transportation and who accompanied by (if applicable).
2. In the event of a declared emergency alert, each resident's plan of care will provide direction for

“surge” plan as per policy and be utilized to determine the appropriate Transportation Assistance level (TAL).

3. Utilization of the E-finds system will be used when able. See policy 8.2.13.2
  4. Residents will be tagged at the holding area:
    - a. One tag will identify the residents name and any newly acquired injury such as burns or fractures. Residents assessed to be at risk for elopement will also be identified by this tag. These tags are available with pins and marking pen in a designated area within the facility.
    - b. One tag will be affixed during a planned evacuation utilizing the universal Transportation assistance (TAL) classifications to help streamline and coordinate. TAL classifications are used to assess the types of resources needed (bus, vans, ambulances) by each patient during a planned evacuation. TAL tags are located in the facility evacuation tote located in a designated area within the facility. Staff members will identify which TAL to affix via the care plan.
    - c. Staff members will be stationed at every exit door during the evacuation process in order to prevent potential resident elopement.
    - d. Staff members will be assigned to accompany any resident assessed to be an elopement risk during the entire transit process (i.e. from the facility to the stop over point, at the stop over point, from the stop over point to the receiving facility and back to the sending facility once clearance has been given to reoccupy).
  5. A list of all residents on temporary leave will be distributed as follows:
    - a. (Western New York)  
 New York State Department of Health  
 Office of Health Systems Management  
 584 Delaware Avenue  
 Buffalo, New York 14202
    - (Long Island)  
 New York State Department of Health  
 Office of Health Systems Management  
 320 Carlton Avenue, Suite 5000  
 Central Islip, NY 11722
    - b. Administrator
    - c. All Facility Department Heads
  6. Medications while on Temporary Leave: An adequate supply of medication will be obtained and full written instructions for their daily administration will be given to the family/designated representative.
- NOTE: Each resident must have a physician’s order, which specifically states those medications he/she wants administered to the resident when on temporary leave.
7. Readmission to the facility only requires a nurse's note stating the date, hour and condition of the resident upon returning from temporary leave.

8. Nursing care measures, medications, and treatments of residents remaining in the facility:
  - a. An immediate evaluation of all residents remaining in the facility should be carried out by the Nursing Staff and the Attending Physician/Medical Director. This will serve as a guide for care during the period of emergency. Separate order sheets, MAR's and Treatment sheets may be made out for this period of time.
  - b. Medications that are to be administered to residents remaining in the facility may be administered by the following persons:
    - Medical Director
    - Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing, Unit Coordinators, Charge Nurses
    - Licensed Agency RN's and LPN's

## **eFinds**

All residents will be evaluated for appropriate disposition. eFINDS provides a solid foundation for registering and updating patient/resident location information during a public health event, such as a storm, flood, non-natural incident or practice exercise/drill.

### **POLICY:**

An Evacuation kit is maintained in the Administrator's office. The Kit contains:

- Bar code scanner
- Preprinted barcode wrist bands
- Laptop (where applicable)
- Mutual Aid Plan
- Wrist Bands identifying patients/residents scanned

In the event of an emergency, eFind wrist bands are applied on all residents. When scanning is completed (as described below), a second wristband (red and/or 'Scanned') is placed on the resident/patient signifying that they have been scanned and are in the eFinds system.

Actions of an evacuating facility:

- Register patient/resident (HPN Admin user only)
  - Update patient/resident (HPN Admin user only)
  - Generate barcodes spreadsheets (HPN Admin user only)
- Actions of a receiving facility:
    - Update patient/resident

**PROCEDURE:**

Access the HCS, access the Evacuation of Facilities in Disaster system, select your current location and submit.

**-Quick Search**

Click Home on the e-finds menu .

Scan a barcode, enter a barcode number or enter first or last name in Quick Search (located on the top right).

Locate the correct resident record.

Click the Barcode (serial ID) link.

Verify: Patient/Resident is found. You can update the information.

Click Update Patient/Resident.

**-Register Multiples**

Click on Register Patient/Resident>Multi Patient/Resident Input.

Verify Evacuation Operation and Select Intended Destination.

Enter number of barcodes needed.

Click Generate Fillable Spreadsheet.

Enter known information, such as name, DOB, and the Intended Destination organization type and locations.

Click Save all Patient/Resident.

Verify message: Successfully saved (# being evacuated) Patient/Resident and click barcode to view patient/resident information.

**-Register with Scanner**

Scan a barcode OR click Register Patient/Resident>With Scanner.

Confirm message: Barcode is located. You can register a new Patient/Resident.

If time allows, enter First and Last name, DOB, Gender etc.

Verify Evacuation Operation is correct OR select operation from the list.

Verify Patient/Resident current location is correct.

Select the Intended Destination Organization Type.

Select the Intended Destination from dropdown list.

Enter Bulk Group; such as Bus # or transportation description.

Click Register. If required fields are not complete, you will receive an error message; Click override to bypass the error message and continue.

Confirm message: Patient/Resident info is updated.

**-Update Multiples**

Click Update Patient/Resident>Multi Patient/Resident Update.

Verify your location.

Select and Action Type:

Releasing Patient/Resident from this location; OR

Change Operation for Patient/Resident at this location

Select the Intended Destination.

Enter the Bulk Group, for example transport via bus.

Click Load All Patient/Resident.

Select All OR Update for each patient or resident.

Click Release Selected Patient/Resident.

Verify message: Successfully updated (#) Patient/Resident.

**-Generate Log**

Click Manage Barcodes>Generate Barcode Spreadsheet.

Select or verify current location.

Enter the number of barcodes you will need.

Select the PDF if you want a scannable barcode log OR select EXCEL for the upload patient/resident option.

Click Generate.

Print the PDF or Save the Excel spreadsheet to your computer

**-Upload File**

Click Register Patient/Resident>Patient/Resident Upload File

Verify Evacuation Operation and current location.

Click Browse.

Locate the Excel file with saved patient or resident information.

Hint: search nys\_e-FINDS file name with facility id, date and time.

Click Open to add file.

Click Upload.

Verify the patient or resident Information is updated, and edit the information as needed.

Click Save All Patients/Residents.

**-Update with Scanner**

Click Update Patient/Resident> With Scanner.

Scan the barcode and click Submit if necessary.

Confirm message: Barcode is located. You can register new Patient/Resident with it OR Patient/Resident is found. You can update the information.

Enter or confirm the information, including Evacuation Operation and the current patient or resident location.

Click Register, Update or Override.

Confirm message: Patient/Resident info is updated.

**-Update without Scanner**

Click Update Patient/Resident>Multi Patient/Resident Update.

Verify your location.

Select Checking in Patients/Resident into this location.

Verify the patient or resident is correct.

Click Select All OR Update for each patient or resident being received.

Click Check in Selected Patient/Resident.

Confirm message: Successfully updated (correct #) of Patient/Resident.

Resources: <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pub/ctrldocs/e-finds.html>

### **Addendum: Shelter in Place Protocol**

This facility plans for sheltering in place well in advance of a crisis or disaster situation.

#### **Policy Implementation**

1. The facility identifies and assesses the length of time it can realistically support SIP before a decision is made to fully evacuate.
2. The following potential situations have been identified, in which sheltering in place might be necessary:

1. Winter storm/severe weather
  2. CBRNE events
  3. High wind/tornado
  4. Extreme cold
  5. Other potential SIP events will be determined by the Incident Commander at the appropriate time.
3. The following areas within the facility have been identified as suitable spaces that are structurally sound and away from potential exposure areas for residents, staff, and visitors to seek shelter:
1. All (3) facility resident dining areas (primary sites)
  2. Main Solarium and unit lounges (alternate sites)
4. Surge Capacity Assessment – The facility will determine how many individuals it can safely shelter, as the facility may have to shelter staff members, staff members' immediate family members, as well as serve as a receiving "host" facility to other facilities. This determination is referred to as a Surge Capacity Assessment.
  5. This facility also realizes that hospitals may have to transfer patients to the facility during catastrophic events if they reach overcapacity. This is integrated into the Surge Plans for hospitals.
  6. All factors that may cause a secondary event following the initial need to shelter in place are considered (for example, a building collapse post-tornado).
  7. The facility considers all materials and inventory items specific to sheltering in place (for example, plastic sheeting, tarps, duct tape, extra blankets and pillows, etc.) that may be needed to facilitate the SIP procedure in reference to a contaminated or hazardous environment outside of the facility.
  8. The facility has identified all aspects of the facility's physical plant and infrastructure that need to be evaluated during and immediately following the shelter in place procedure to ensure the safety of residents, staff, and visitors.

The facility will have adequate food, supplies, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and water for residents and staff to shelter in place for minimally 72 hours. Sleeping quarters, shower facilities and associated supplies will also be available as necessary. Details below:

1. Sleeping Quarters

**The Incident Commander will assign a person to arrange sleeping quarters for staff members, volunteers and visitors.**

- a. P.T. and O.T. rooms, residents' sitting rooms and offices may be utilized as sleeping quarters.
- b. Linens, blankets and pillows may be obtained through the Housekeeping Department.
- c. Extra mattresses may be located in Maintenance.
- d. Wake up calls should be arranged depending on staffing needs.

2. Shower Facilities

Staff showers are available on each nursing unit. Supplies of soap, towels, washcloths, toothpaste and brushes, etc. should be made available at the shower area.



