



Harrogate Outbreak Response Plan

Policy Statement:

Harrogate has developed an Outbreak Response Plan in accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12:87. This plan has been customized specifically to Harrogate, based upon national standards and developed in consultation with the community's Infection Prevention and Control Committee.

Procedures:

1. Protocol for isolating and cohorting infected and at-risk residents in the event of an outbreak of a contagious disease until the cessation of an outbreak.
 - a. Harrogate will isolate and cohort infected and at-risk residents in accordance with Harrogate's isolation procedures. Outbreak monitoring and reporting will continue until resolution. The Infection Preventionist will have the authority to implement control measures for the 68 bed Health Center as appropriate, in coordination with the facility administration and medical staff as well as state and local agencies.
2. Clear policies for the notification of residents, residents' families, visitors, and staff in the event of an outbreak of a contagious disease within the community.
 - a. In the event of an outbreak, the Administrator or designee will send an email to all family members to alert them of positive cases within the community. Family members will receive a phone call from the charge nurse or designee if their loved one has tested positive for an infectious disease. Staff members will be sent an email from Human Resources no later than 5:00 PM the next calendar day following the subsequent occurrence of either a confirmed COVID-19 infection or three or more residents or team members with a new onset of

respiratory symptoms that have occurred within 72 hours of each other.

Residents will be notified both in person and in writing of positive cases within the community.

3. Information on the availability of laboratory testing, protocols for assessing whether facility visitors are ill, protocols to require ill staff to not present at the facility for work duties, and processes for implementing evidence-based outbreak response measures.
 - a. Visitors entering the community are required to sign in via Accushield to ensure visitors are not entering the community with signs and symptoms of an infectious disease.
 - b. Residents admitting to the Harrogate's Health Center that are not up to date with their vaccines (have received the Bivalent Booster for Covid) will be required to quarantine for 7 days. As per QSO-20-38-NH, upon a new single case of COVID-19 infection in our community outbreak testing will begin immediately through either contact tracing or broad-based facility wide testing.
 - c. All staff who are not up to date with their Covid vaccines will be required to partake in covid testing 2x weekly in accordance with the NJ CALI score. Any staff member who develops signs and symptoms or has been in close contact with another positive person will partake in testing at intervals of 2x weekly. Staff are asked not to come to work if they are feeling ill.
4. Policies to conduct routine monitoring of residents and staff to quickly identify signs of a communicable disease that could develop into an outbreak.
 - a. Harrogate has policies and procedures in place to aid in the prevention, identification, and containment of infectious diseases. Nursing staff will monitor residents for signs and symptoms that may suggest infection, according to current criteria and definitions of infections, and will document and report suspected infections to the charge nurse. If a communicable disease outbreak is suspected, this information will be communicated to the Infection Preventionist. The charge nurse will also contact the attending physician to develop a plan of care. If transmission-based precautions or other preventative measures are implemented to slow or stop the spread of the infection, the Infection Preventionist will collect data to determine the effectiveness of such measures.
 - b. All Harrogate staff will be required to sign in through Accushield upon the start of their shift. Accushield is a screening tool by the community used to ensure staff do not report to work with signs and symptoms of an infection. In the event a staff member has been in close contact with someone who has an infectious disease, the staff member will immediately report to the Infection Preventionist for guidance.
5. Policies for reporting outbreaks to public health officials in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
 - a. Harrogate will report public health outbreaks in accordance with state and local guidelines. Outbreak reporting for long term care facilities includes ≥ 1 positive

case among residents and ≥ 3 cases in HCP of laboratory-confirmed (RT-PCR or antigen) or suspect (detection of SARS-CoV2 specific antigen by immunocytochemistry OR detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA or specific antigen using a test performed without CLIA oversight) COVID-19 cases who are epidemiologically linked (e.g., having the potential to have been within 6 ft for 15 minutes or longer while working in the facility during the 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms) AND no other likely source of exposure is identified for at least 1 of the cases. Testing is conducted as soon as a new confirmed case is confirmed.

- i. Harrogate will also report new cases of Covid and Influenza, staffing, availability of supplies, and vaccination rates to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) twice per week.
 - b. If there is an incidence of infections above what would normally be expected considering seasonal variations (ex: Influenza and RSV), the Infection Preventionist will start a line listing and report this data as requested by state and local authorities.
 6. A documented strategy for securing more staff in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease among staff or another emergent or non-emergent situation affecting staffing levels at the facility during an outbreak of an infectious disease.
 - a. Harrogate employs a team of dedicated staff that show up every day to provide quality care to its residents. Compared to a national average of over 50% annual turnover, Harrogate regularly maintains a turnover rate below 30%. In the event infectious diseases take a toll on the front-line staff, Harrogate has agreements in place to continue to sufficiently care for our residents. These agreements include:
 - i. Agency Staffing
 1. Harrogate has agreements in place with staffing agencies in the area to provide RN, LPN, and CNA coverage in the event scheduled shifts cannot be filled by Harrogate staff.
 - ii. Therapy
 1. Therapy Management Company (TMC) provides therapy services to Harrogate's residents 7 days a week. In the event of an emergency, these therapists can be used in direct care roles within the scope of their practice.
 - iii. Ancillary Staff
 1. Harrogate has a group of staff with unique qualifications. In the event Harrogate needs to get creative with its staffing, Harrogate will utilize employees in other areas of the building who have unique qualifications outside of their primary scope of practice.
 - b. In addition to emergency staffing, Harrogate maintains an emergency PPE stockpile greater than two months. The type of PPE contained in this stockpile

includes surgical masks, N95 masks, single-use isolation gowns, protective eye-ware, medical-grade gloves, and more to be able to care for our residents in the event of an emergency. Harrogate uses the CDC's PPE Burn Rate calculator to ensure it has enough PPE stored away to last over two months.

- c. Education will be provided to staff, residents, resident representatives, and visitors related to the prevention of infectious diseases. This education includes but is not limited to the following: hand washing, transmission of infectious diseases, isolation precautions, donning and doffing PPE, CDC guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing, and how to report signs and symptoms.

Harrogate's Outbreak Response Plan will be reviewed at least annually and will be reviewed by the Infection Prevention Committee that meets quarterly. The Committee consists of the Infection Preventionist, Medical Director, Director of Nursing, Administrator, and Unit Manager. All findings from the meetings will be brought to Harrogate's Quality Assurance Committee (QAPI) for ongoing review to ensure the effectiveness of Harrogate's infection prevention policies and procedures.