

The New Jersey Firemen's Home

COVID Outbreak Response Plan

Policy: The New Jersey Firemen's Home is committed to facility preparedness in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak and has developed this Response Plan to assist residents and staff in the unfortunate event of a COVID outbreak.

- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates the implementation of a strategy for effective and clear communication with staff, residents and their families or guardians by:
 1. Initiate notification of outbreak to all residents, residents' families/guardians, and employees within 24 hrs. of outbreak. Residents' families/guardians to be notified of outbreak via email blasts and updates posted on NJFH website.
 2. Update residents, resident families/guardians and employees of current outbreak status at least weekly.
 3. Communicate information regarding outbreak with staff via meetings, email and through NJFH EMR system. Share information about what is currently known, the potential for surge, and facility's preparedness plans.
 4. Keep Board of Management, residents, residents' families/guardians and employees informed. Describe what actions the facility is taking to protect them, including answering their questions and explaining what they can do to protect themselves and their fellow residents.
 5. Ensure appropriate signage is posted throughout the building and at all entrances.
 6. Assist nursing with notifying residents and families via phone calls to all responsible parties as needed.

- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates implementing a program for the Mitigation of Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages by:

1. Monitor healthcare personnel absenteeism and follow CDC and NJDOH guidelines regarding return to work.
 2. If possible, restrict healthcare personnel movement from areas of the facility having illness to areas not affected by the outbreak.
 3. The medical director will recommend and order prophylactic treatment for every employee that works at NJFH and every resident if indicated.
 4. Remind staff to stay home if ill or if they are exhibiting any s/s of illness.
 5. Secure staff by initiating hazard pay, overtime and publishing staffing need through the OEM.
 6. Follow CDC and/or NJDOH mitigation strategies/guidance that offers options for addressing staffing shortages.
 7. Notify non-essential staff to remain off the nursing units.
- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates implementing a Covid-19 Testing Program for residents and staff by:
 1. Covid-19 testing of staff and residents to be performed as per NJ DOH/CDC guidelines.
 - The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates implementing the Core Intervention for Infection prevention and contracting with a Certified Infection preventionist by:
 1. Contracted with APIC, Certified Infection Control Preventionist Consultant.
 2. ADON to complete CIC program and certification.
 - The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates the implementation of a Respiratory Protection Program by:
 1. Designated staff to be trained for Fit Testing.
 2. Staff to be medically cleared for mask and fit testing.
 3. Fit testing to occur annually and as needed.
 - The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates the implementation of a PPE Stockpile/Inventory, maintaining a supply of cleaning and disinfection products and hand sanitizer by:
 1. Stockpile and ensure facility has a 2-month supply of PPE on

hand and readily available.

2. Report PPE Burn Rate Calculator to NJ DOH daily.

- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates implementing reporting to the NHSN Program by:
 1. DON registered with NHSN and reporting PCR and Antigen Rapid testing information at least twice weekly.

- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates a Visitation Protocol by:
 1. Screen patients and visitors for symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., fever, cough, difficulty breathing) before entering using temperature scans and symptom questionnaire -Facility will prohibit entry for anyone exhibiting s/s of illness.
 2. Visitation of family, friends, and volunteers permitted as per NJDOH and/or CDC recommendations/ guidelines. Those that are determined to visit will be required to adhere to NJFH PPE protocols as determined by CDC/ NJDOH guidelines/recommendations.

- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates implementing PPE protocols, as per the CDC/ NJDOH Guidance on Optimization of PPE by:
 1. Provide the right supplies to ensure easy and correct use of PPE. Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident room that clearly describe the type of precautions needed and required PPE.
 2. Review procedure with staff regarding protection for wearing masks, gowns, gloves, and other protective devices.

- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates implementing Universal Source Control, ie: Universal Masking protocol by:
 1. Active surveillance for Universal Masking conducted (by nursing dept and all department heads) among all new and current residents, all healthcare personnel, and all visitors of long-term care facilities, and continued until advised otherwise by the Nursing Department.

- The New Jersey Firemen's Home demonstrates implementing a protocol for the separation of Covid-19 positive residents and negative residents by:
 1. If possible, cohort residents, staff, equipment and supplies according to the living/ work area. Identify three cohort groups: ill, exposed, and not ill or exposed.

- The New Jersey Firemen’s Home demonstrates implementing a Resident Transfer Management Protocol by:
 1. Avoid transfers to units with symptomatic or Covid positive residents.
 2. All unvaccinated admissions/readmissions to be quarantined as per NJDOH and CDC guidelines.

- The New Jersey Firemen’s Home demonstrates implementing a program for End-of-Life Compassionate Care and Essential Care Giver Visitation by:
 1. End of Life/Compassionate Care residents allowed visitation by family members at all times.
 2. All family members allowed to visit end of life residents must adhere to NJFH PPE protocols as determined by CDC/NJDOH guidelines.

- Actions implemented by the New Jersey Firemen’s Home:
 1. NJFH has a vaccine program for residents and staff.
 2. All persons entering facility will be logged in and screened for s/s of COVID-19. All staff entering the facility will also be screened for s/s of COVID-19 at the beginning of each shift.
 3. Non-essential personnel, i.e., volunteers, contractors will be allowed visitation. All non-essential personnel will be logged in and screened for s/s of COVID-19.
 4. All residents to be screened for s/s of COVID-19 every shift during outbreak status.
 5. Communal dining and group activities permitted for COVID-19 negative and asymptomatic, or COVID-19 recovered residents only.
 6. Testing of residents and staff to continue according to CDC and/or NJDOH guidelines.
 7. Medical trips outside the facility will be permitted.
 8. Residents permitted to go out on pass with family, friends or guardians.

Updated 4/2022