


McGuire Memorial Policy & Procedure

Department: McGuire Memorial Community Homes

Subject: COVID-19 Transmission-Based Precautions and Cohorting

Effective Date: June 28, 2020

Approval: Name: 
President & CEO

Purpose: To establish Transmission-Based Precautions to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 through the implementation of cohorting strategies.

Policy: In accordance to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, PA Department of Health (PA-HAN 509), and Office of Developmental Programs McGuire Memorial will adhere to the following cohorting strategies and procedures in an effort to maintain the health and safety of McGuire Memorial residents and employees.

Procedures:

McGuire Memorial will implement cohorting strategies for McGuire Memorial Community Homes according to the following zones. *Please note that a zone in reference to a Community Home encompasses the entire house.

- COVID + Zone (RED): The residents in this zone (house) are COVID-19 Positive. Staff will adhere to Standard Precautions and use full PPE which includes a respirator, gloves, gown, and eye protection.
- COVID Exposed Zone (YELLOW): The residents in this zone (house) are within 14 days of exposure/potential exposure. Staff will adhere to Standard Precautions and use full PPE which includes a respirator (or facemask if respirator is unavailable), gloves, gown, and eye protection.
- Unexposed Zone (GREEN): Residents in this zone (house) have not had any known exposure. Staff will adhere to Standard Precautions and use a facemask and gloves/gowns as needed.

Zone Guidelines:

- Zones will be clearly marked with limited access signs or temporary barriers to prevent unnecessary travel in this house.
- Equipment will be dedicated to each zone. Any equipment that must be shared between different zones/residents will be fully cleaned and disinfected between use.
- Unexposed (GREEN) Zones will be clearly marked with limited access signs to prevent unnecessary foot traffic to that house.
- When a zone dedication of YELLOW or RED is initiated the following will occur:
 - Nursing will notify staff of the change in status and review the procedures with all involved including PPE use and quarantine protocols.

- Nursing and the Community Home Professional will ensure the proper PPE and hazard waste receptacles that are needed for that house are present.
- The Community Home Professional will notify the Schedulers to ensure the staff that have been working at the house remain consistently placed and contact tracing can begin.

Necessitating Zone Implementation:

- Anytime a resident receives a positive test the house will become a COVID + (RED) Zone.
- Any resident who develops symptoms consistent with COVID should be presumed to be positive. While awaiting test results, the resident will be in a private room. This house now becomes a YELLOW zone.
- If the laboratory reports an inconclusive or indeterminant test result nursing will repeat specimen collection as soon as possible. The house will remain a COVID-potentially exposed (YELLOW) zone while awaiting repeat test results.
- An individual returning from an offsite visit (i.e. ER, hospital, doctor's appointment, etc.) will remain in their private room for 72 hours and will be monitored for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Staff will follow the precautions for that resident according to a YELLOW zone.

De-escalating Zones:

1) RED Zone to GREEN Zone

The following criteria set forth in PA-HAN-502 must be met in order to discontinue transmission based precautions which would permit a resident to move from a RED Zone to a GREEN Zone.

- a) If the Resident was Symptomatic with confirmed COVID-19 one of the following strategies must be met:
 - i) Test-based strategy
 - (1) Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - (2) Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and**
 - (3) Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).
 - ii) Symptom-based strategy
 - (1) At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
 - (2) At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

- b) If the Resident was Asymptomatic with confirmed COVID-19 one of the following strategies must be met:
 - i) Test-based strategy
 - (1) Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

**Note, because of the absence of symptoms, it is not possible to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness. There have been reports of prolonged detection of RNA without direct correlation to viral culture.*

ii) Time-based strategy

(1) 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

**Note, because symptoms cannot be used to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness, it is possible that the duration of viral shedding could be longer or shorter than 10 days after their first positive test.*

2) YELLOW Zone House to GREEN Zone House

A COVID-potentially exposed (YELLOW) Zone may be changed to Unexposed (GREEN) status when the following criteria has been met:

- a) Exposure occurred at least 14 days ago **and**
- b) Obtained negative results from at least one FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARSCoV-2 RNA.
 - a) If a higher level of clinical suspicion for COVID-19 exists, consider maintaining Transmission-Based Precautions and performing a second test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.
 - b) If a resident is suspected of having COVID-19 is never tested, the decision to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions can be made based upon using the symptom-based strategy described above.

Staffing Guidelines

- Attempts will be made to keep staff consistently working in the same house, eliminating the need to crossover to other houses. If that optimum scenario cannot be upheld, all efforts will be made to minimize staff assignments/movement between zones (houses) in adherence to the following guidelines:

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| | <p>Best Option</p> <p>Staff always work on the same unit, and units do not include more than one Zone. Staff do not cross over to other units.</p> |
| | <p>Staff always work on the same Zone, and do not cross over to other Zones. They may work in two or more exposed (Yellow) units, for example.</p> |
| | <p>Staff are assigned to specific Zones but must <i>occasionally</i> cover staffing needs in other Zones for certain shifts. Ideally, staff would <u>not</u> work in the COVID-positive (Red) unit and then return to exposed (Yellow) or unexposed units (Green).</p> |
| | <p>Staff always work in the same Zone during one shift but may work in different Zones on different shifts. Ideally, staff would <u>not</u> work in the COVID-positive (Red) zone and then return to exposed (Yellow) or unexposed (Green) units.</p> |
| | <p>Occasionally staffing needs require that certain staff work in more than one Zone during a single shift. That person must change all PPE and perform hand hygiene when going from one Zone unit to another. <i>Exception: respirators or facemasks that have been worn with a face shield can be worn continuously.</i> Ideally, this should be limited to key staff (e.g. RNs).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Least Desirable</p> |

- In the event staffing reaches crisis capacity asymptomatic staff who test positive for COVID-19 may be able to work under the following conditions:

- Asymptomatic staff with COVID-19 must only work with COVID-19 positive residents (Red Zone).
- Work areas for COVID positive and negative or untested staff must be kept separate, including break room, workstations and bathrooms.

Refusal of Testing

Residents that refuse testing:

- These residents, if potentially exposed to COVID-19, should be cared for in a Yellow Zone until at least 14 days after any known exposure.
- If these residents develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 testing is recommended, and the testing request will be revisited with the resident or responsible party.

Staff that refuse testing:

- In general, these staff persons will not care for residents in unexposed Green Zones; therefore, they will be assigned to work in Yellow or Red Zones.
- If these staff develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, testing will be recommended, and the staff person will be excluded from work.
- Staff may return to work upon meeting return to work criteria set forth in McGuire Memorial's Return to Work Policy, and the guidance set forth in this policy.

Discontinuation of "Exposed" or "Affected" Status

To declare the house that had COVID-19 positive resident(s) unaffected by COVID-19, all of the following conditions must apply:

- All residents in the house who were confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 must have met the criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions
- A minimum of 14 days have passed since the date of symptom onset from the last positive or presumptive positive
- A minimum of 14 days have passed since the implementation of transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 and other infection prevention and control interventions for COVID-19
- All residents who were not confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 remain asymptomatic
- All staff remain asymptomatic or have met return-to-work criteria
- No additional or ongoing exposures have occurred