


McGuire Memorial Policy & Procedure

Department: McGuire Memorial Intermediate Care Facility

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 zones within the Intermediate Care Facility that will be used to cohort residents according to the following:

- COVID + Zone (RED): The residents in this zone 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 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 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 foot traffic to the area.
- Equipment will be dedicated to each zone. Any equipment that must be shared between different zones will be fully cleaned and disinfected between use.
- McGuire Memorial's COVID + (RED) Zone is not in close proximity to Unexposed (GREEN) zones.

- Unexposed (GREEN) Zones will be clearly marked with limited access signs to prevent unnecessary foot traffic to that area.
- Staff should not move backwards Red to Yellow to Green. If it is necessary and unavoidable all PPE must be changed excluding the mask/respirator and hand hygiene must be performed.
- When a zone dedication is initiated the direct care supervisors will do the following:
 - Notify staff of the change in status and review the procedures with all involved
 - Hang the proper signage noting the zone change
 - Initiate isolation procedures
 - Disperse the proper PPE needed for that zone
 - Will ensure hazard waste receptacles are present
 - Inform Schedulers so that efforts can be made to keep staff consistently placed and contract tracing can be initiated.

Necessitating Zone Implementation:

- 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. If they have a roommate the roommate will be removed from the current room. The roommate should also be considered exposed (YELLOW).
 - The symptomatic resident should move to a YELLOW zone.
- Anytime a resident receives a positive test they will be moved to a COVID + (RED) Zone.
- If the laboratory reports an inconclusive or indeterminant test result nursing will repeat specimen collection as soon as possible. The resident will be cared for within 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 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 to GREEN Zone

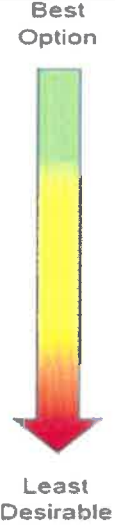
A COVID-potentially exposed (YELLOW) Zone may be changed to Unexposed (GREEN) status when the following criteria has been met:

- 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 Villa, eliminating the need to crossover to other Zones. If that optimum scenario cannot be upheld, all

efforts will be made to minimize staff assignments/movement between zones in adherence to the following guidelines:

	<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>

- 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 facility that has housed COVID-19 positive resident unaffected by COVID-19, all of the following conditions must apply:

- All residents on the unit 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