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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

OCHCA GUIDANCE ON VISITATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN RCFEs 8-26-20

Assisted Living Facilities (not including Memory Care Units)

According to PIN 20-23-ASC, facilities can consider a relaxation of visitation guidelines if the following criteria are met:

- There have been no new cases of COVID-19 (resident or staff) at the facility for 14 days.
- Facility is not experiencing staff shortages.
- Licensee has adequate supplies of PPE and essential cleaning supplies.
- Licensee has adequate access to COVID-19 testing as outlined in the “Testing for COVID-19 in Residential Facilities”
 - **Licensee must have the capacity to test all staff and all residents** if a COVID-19 case is identified in either a resident or staff member of the facility, and to perform surveillance testing as outlined in PIN 20-23-ASC
 - Public Health is **NOT** able to perform this testing for licensee in the event of an outbreak
- Require visitors to wear face coverings (i.e. facemasks or cloth face coverings).

Despite the fact that Orange County is now off the “watch list”, there is still significant community transmission of COVID-19 in Orange County, and that may increase once schools are back in session. Therefore, Orange County Health Care Agency (Public Health) still does not recommend indoor visitation, but indoor congregate meals and some activities may resume or continue with modifications. Significant outbreaks have occurred in all types of facilities in which social distancing and masking was not being practiced, so continued vigilance to preventive practices is critical. Be aware that *any* communal activity may increase the likelihood of an outbreak should a case of COVID-19 be diagnosed in the facility.

Recommendation for modified activities:

- Communal dining may take place outdoors or in a large open-to-air (e.g., multiple doors or large windows to outside open to increase ventilation in room) or well ventilated room as long as staffing ratio allows for absolute adherence to social distancing and sanitization of any commonly touched surfaces between groups.
 - Stagger meal times for two or more servings to reduce number eating at one time. Allow time to clean/sanitize between servings.
 - All diners use hand sanitizer upon entry into dining area.
 - Staff must be masked at all times, residents masked before and after eating.
 - Diners must be at least 6 feet apart; if tables less than 6 feet in length or diameter, must be only one diner per table.
 - Tables must be at least 6 feet apart.
 - Sanitize tables and chair arms after each seating.
- Activities may take place outdoors or in a large open-to-air (see above) or well-ventilated room as long as staffing ratio allows for absolute adherence to social distancing, masking of all involved, and sanitization of any commonly touched surfaces between groups.
 - Stagger activity times if necessary to reduce number participating (no more than 10 people at once), allowing sufficient time for cleaning between groups.

- Clean/sanitize any items or commonly touched surfaces between groups.
- If activity is physical exercise, this must take place outside only and if masks are not tolerated, must be at least 6 feet (ideally more) between participants.
- No singing activities anywhere (singing can spread COVID)!
- Monitored visitation can occur **outside**, with following safeguards:
 - Number of visitors limited and by appointment only.
 - Prescreen of all visitors for fever and symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Visitors should not enter the facility if possible; best to escort them to the outside visitation area without having to traverse the facility.
 - Face coverings should be worn by both the resident and their visitors.
 - Facility staff should monitor to assure that social distancing is enforced (at least 6 feet apart).
 - Time limited based on staffing; no more than 30 min, but may need to be less if staffing inadequate to monitor visit.
- Special circumstances for indoor visitation:
 - End-of-life: allow one visitor to be present at a time; visitors must be screened for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before entering, must wear mask at all times and go directly to loved-ones room and not visit other areas of the facility, door to room should be closed during visit.
 - Urgent health or legal matters that cannot be postponed:
 - Examples include estate planning, advance health care directives, Power of Attorney, transfer of property title
 - Allow one visitor to be present at a time; visitors must be screened for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before entering, must wear mask at all times and go directly to the room and not visit other areas of the facility, door to room should be closed during visit.
- Beauticians: may take place **outdoors** only
 - Pre-screen beautician for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 (ideal to have beautician work for only one facility and not multiple).
 - Both beautician and resident must be masked the whole time.
 - Limit to more necessary procedures (e.g., haircut) than strictly cosmetic procedures (e.g. wash and set).
 - Limit time to no more than 30 minutes, ideally less than 15.
 - Sanitize chair and instruments between clients.
 - Only one beautician and one resident at a time.

Memory Care Units

Given the difficulties in having memory care patients comply with social distancing and masking, above activities can only be attempted with following modifications to ensure compliance with social distancing:

- Group activities as described above with no more than 5 at a time.
- Communal meals as described above with no more than one per table.
- Outdoor visitation as described above with 1:1 staffing.