



OALA worked in conjunction with Pam Reese, Founder of Quality Now, to provide this sample policy guidelines

COVID-19 PANDEMIC GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTED LIVING STAFF – STAFF FAQ

Q. I am working with a resident that is showing signs of a virus, what should I do to protect myself?

A. Because we are healthcare workers, our exposure risk is greater than the average person. It is always important to utilize strict standard precautions in our jobs and without exception now. Regardless of diagnosis, If the resident is coughing, and has a fever, it is important to wear a mask and gloves during direct patient care. It is also important for you to limit your close contact with other caregivers and sanitize your work areas as you document. In order to protect those that you live with, it's advisable for you to change your cloths immediately when you arrive home or have a change of clothes here that you can put on prior to walking out the door. Ensure that you wash your hands for 20 seconds prior to touching anything at home. These methods help keep the risk to yourself and others as low as possible.

Q. My resident may have COVID 19, should I go home and quarantine myself for 14 days?

A. For healthcare workers your exposure rate is higher due to the jobs that you perform. it is important for you to monitor yourself for symptoms that include fever or difficulty breathing. If you do not have those symptoms, you would continue to utilize strict standard precautions. If at any time you become symptomatic, you should tell your supervisor. At that point you will be sent home and recommended to call your Physician. You most likely would not return to work for 14 days after your symptoms began and you are symptom free.

Q. My resident was just diagnosed with COVID 19, should I get tested?

A. No, not unless you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19. Which include respiratory distress and fever.

Q. I have a sick resident on two different floors, it doesn't make sense for me to mobilize throughout the facility taking care of both.

A. Some decisions that are made involve consistent staffing and keeping resident to staff exposure low. If you are the consistent caregiver, it may be safer for you to care for them both, although there is distance between their rooms.

Q. I want to wear a gown, gloves and mask in every room that I enter.

A. At this point it is not necessary to utilize PPE in the healthy or non-virus patient's room. It is better to utilize the full PPE while taking care of the resident's that may have a transmittable virus. This also ensures that we have the necessary equipment when we need it most.