



Georgia Department of Public Health

GHCA COVID-19 Member Update

Presentation to: Georgia Healthcare Association

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We Protect Lives.



Who We Are

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Team of Infection Preventionists
- Offer free, non-regulatory infection prevention consultation
- Conduct virtual walk-throughs using Zoom
- Provide resources; keep up-to-date with CDC recommendations for long-term care facilities
- Contact us at hai@dph.ga.gov

Hot Topics in LTCF COVID-19 Prevention

- Biohazard (red bag) Waste
- Alcohol Based Hand Rub (ABHR)
- Face Shields
- Respirator Use
- Respirator Fit Test

- Future: Discuss Antigen Testing
- Please provide input for future discussions

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Biohazardous Waste

- It is not necessary to dispose of all waste from caring for suspected/confirmed COVID-19 residents in a biohazardous (red bag) waste bag
- Collaborate with biohazardous waste vendor
- Follow usual waste disposal procedures.
- CDC resource: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Finfection-control%2Fcontrol-recommendations.html

Biohazardous Waste

Includes:

- Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious material, including
- Bulk blood, blood products, bloody suctioning
- Bloody (saturated or dripping) personnel protective equipment/supplies/dressings

It does not include:

- Items such as gauze and disposable instruments with small amounts of blood
- Urine bags (these should be emptied prior to being placed in regular trash)
- Gowns or gloves that are not visibly bloody
- Paper products including paper towels, wrappers, and packaging
- Medications / empty medication vials
- Diapers/ pads that are not saturated or dripping with blood

Alcohol Based Hand Rub (ABHR)

- Preferred for COVID-19 prevention over soap and water
 - Effective instantly
 - Convenient
 - Easier for staff to comply with indications for use
 - Appropriate in most clinical situations
- Develop short and long-term strategies for ABHR in your facility
 - Address shortages during pandemic
 - Include in infection prevention plan for future
- Two resources from DPH on ABHR
 - Memorandum developed with state survey agency and Fire Marshal
 - FAQ on ABHR in long-term care facilities

Face Shields

- In areas of high transmission, CDC is currently recommending face shields with respirators: “Use of eye protection is recommended in areas with moderate to substantial community transmission. For areas with minimal to no community transmission, eye protection is considered optional, unless otherwise indicated as part of standard precautions.”
 - Protects staff
 - Supports staff in not touching mucous membranes
 - Face shield helps to reduce respirator contamination
 - See CDC web page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html>

Respirators

- Recognize limited respirator availability during pandemic
- Contact local health department for fit testing
- Consider using Battelle for respirator disinfection
- Add language to Respiratory Program that during pandemic fit testing will be conducted when supplies are available
- Also add Fit Check Procedure to Respiratory Program for respirators
- See:
https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/SEALCHECK_EN_A2s.pdf?ua=1

Questions and Future Topics

- Thank You!

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