



Department of Health

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In an effort to keep you informed, we would like to share with you some of the efforts that have taken place to keep our residents and visitors as safe as possible from the various ailments currently circulating including the flu, common colds, norovirus as well as the Coronavirus/COVID 19.

Our team has reviewed and made current all protocols involving infection control, including universal precautions, which is what the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending be reinforced during flu season, as well as prevention of COVID 19. We have continually followed information released by the CDC as well as the NYS Department of Health and are in compliance with all of the necessary measures that need to be taken. Staff education will be reinforced, and our emergency preparedness and isolation protocols have been reviewed should an issue arise. In addition, I would like to share with you some other important notes to consider:

1. Common sense measures such as a regular and thorough hand washing, use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, respiratory etiquette, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth after coughing are considered highly effective protective measures against any form of virus. This is for everyone, not just staff or residents.
2. For staff, it is important to follow universal precaution protocols, and glove and gown as necessary, and use proper disinfecting agents when necessary.
3. All visitors will be required to sign in at each facility before they will be allowed entrance. In addition, they will need to stop and read signage regarding visiting of patients only when well. This includes not entering the facility when any fever, flu or cold like symptoms are present.
4. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) offers many resident protections including privacy. We will not share resident information unless explicitly allowed by residents and want to reinforce that staff and visitors abide by all federal and state privacy regulations.

Sincerely,

Nicole M. Gallagher

Administrator