

**● Infection Prevention and Control Program**

St. Luke Lutheran Community

**● Policy:**

- It is a policy of this facility to establish and maintain an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.

**● Policy Explanation and Compliance Guidelines:**

- The designated Infection Preventionist serves as a consultant to our staff on infectious diseases, resident room placement, implementing of isolation precautions, staff and resident exposures, surveillance, and epidemiological investigations of exposures of infectious diseases.
- The RNs and LPNs supervise direct care staff in daily activities to assure appropriate precautions and techniques are observed, assess the resident's isolation needs, initiate appropriate precautions in accordance with our established policies and current CDC Infection Control Isolation Guidelines, consult with the Medical Director (and/or the resident's attending physician) as soon as possible to obtain written order for same; and consult the Infection Preventionist for questions regarding isolation, infection control issues, and questions relative to communicable diseases and infections.

**● Surveillance:**

- A system of surveillance is utilized for prevention, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases for all residents, staff, volunteers, visitors, and other individuals providing services under a contractual arrangement based upon a facility assessment and accepted national standards.
- The Infection Preventionist serves as the leader in surveillance activities, maintains documentation of incidents, findings, and any corrective actions made by the facility and reports surveillance findings to the facility's Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee.
- The RNs and LPNs participate in surveillance through assessment of residents and reporting changes in condition to the residents' physicians and management staff, per protocol for notification of changes and in-house reporting of communicable diseases and infections.

**● Hand Hygiene Protocol:**

- All volunteers shall wash their hands when coming on duty, between resident contacts, after handling contaminated objects, after glove removal, before/after eating, before/after toileting, and before going off duty.
- Hands shall be washed in accordance with our facility's established hand washing procedure.
- Volunteers shall use personal protective care equipment (PPE) according to established facility policy governing the use of PPE.

**● Isolation Protocol:**

- Standard precautions shall be observed for all residents.
- A resident with an infection or communicable disease shall be placed on isolation precautions as recommended by current CDC Guidelines for Isolation Precautions. A copy of these guidelines are available at each nurses' station.
- Residents will be placed on the least restrictive isolation precaution for the shortest duration possible under the circumstances.

**● Resident/Family/Visitor Education:**

- Residents, family members, and visitors are provided information relative to the rationale for the isolation, behaviors required of them in observing these precautions, and conditions for which to notify the nursing staff.
- Information on various infectious diseases is available from our Infection Preventionist.
- Isolation signs are used to alert staff, volunteers, family members, and visitors of isolation precautions.
- Volunteer Communicable Disease Screening and Immunization:
  - Volunteers shall be screened for tuberculosis during the orientation process and per the guidelines recommended by the CDC based upon the Annual TB Risk Assessment.
  - Influenza vaccine shall be offered annually.