

January 12, 2024

Nursing Staff, please note the following:



Respiratory Illness Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms may include any number or combination of the following new, worsening, or unexplained signs and symptoms listed below:

- Fever (may not always be present in the elderly)
- Extreme fatigue/weakness
- Cough
- Myalgia
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea/vomiting
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Loss of smell/taste*
- Acute functional decline
- Pink eye*
- Decrease in oxygen (O₂) saturation level or increased O₂ requirements

*These symptoms are more specific to COVID-19

If a Resident presents with **ANY** of the above symptoms, immediately notify LPN or Nurse Supervisor and place on precautions, which includes the following:

- Place isolation stand outside room and garbage can just inside room by door.
- Stock stand with gloves, gowns, masks, face shields, disinfectant wipes
- Place Contact/Droplet Precaution or Contact/Droplet Precaution Plus signs on door
- Place PPE Donning poster outside room and Doffing poster inside room by door

Please note if a Resident is placed on Isolation for the above Respiratory symptoms, an initial Covid-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) should be completed **but a Nasopharyngeal swab must be completed as all specimens will have expanded respiratory panel to determine organism.**

Please ensure that all Residents placed on Isolation are Line Listed and lists are updated daily. Line Lists only need to be faxed to Infection Control if there is a confirmed organism or if there are two or more symptomatic Residents.

Thank you! Your commitment to keeping Our Residents Healthy is Greatly Appreciated.