



## **Outbreak Plan: Policy and Procedure**

Doctors Subacute Care is committed to the continued health and safety of all its residents, staff and families. In the event of an outbreak of infection in the facility, the facility learned from the previous pandemic and is committed to preserving the excellent standards of care provided. The spread of a virus happens quickly, and time efficiency is of the utmost importance in order to slow the spread of a virus. Recognizing the presence of a virus early and tweaking operations to prevent spread are the little things which help preserve the safety of our residents and staff. Each department learned its unique role in preventing and slowing the spread of disease. For example, housekeeping learned that the gatekeepers of bacteria and viruses begin with them. The cleaning schedule and quality was upgraded to match the severity of viruses. We learned of the importance education plays as an important role in ensuring staff members are comfortable with their position in the facility to help prevent spread of disease and infection.

We also learned of the importance to have a clear path of communication with the local, county and State health departments.

We learned of the importance to stay on top of the many regulations regarding Covid-19 and infectious disease outbreak as they are developed and implemented.

We learned of the importance to have and maintain a strong stock of PPE.

Residents, families and staff have the right to know of communicable disease spread in the facility. The facility is committed to clear communication with its residents, families and staff. Because of the diverse spread of people and locations, different people will be responsible to notify different people in the event of a disease or infection outbreak. In the case of a positive Covid test, the local Department of Health is notified, as well out the State Department of Health. Positive tests are also reported to the CDC/NHSN module on a twice-weekly basis. An outbreak is considered such if 1 or more staff or residents contract the same infection or virus. By 5:00pm the next calendar day following a Covid-19 outbreak or 72 hours of any other respiratory outbreak detection, the social worker or designee will make rounds to the residents advising them of an outbreak, via written or verbal notice. In addition, families will be notified by the business office via email or letters and staff will be notified via in-service or posted notices in the facility. These notices and letters to residents, families and staff will include the Covid-19 numbers and statistics, and what actions the facility is taking to prevent the spread of the disease. Staff, residents and families are notified and encouraged to visit the facility website ([doctorsubacutecare.com](http://doctorsubacutecare.com)) for additional information and resources. Staff, residents and families can also call into the facility (973-942-8899) to learn more about the virus, the outbreak status of the facility and our COVID-19 response plan.



Doctors Subacute Care has implanted many factors to mitigate and prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the facility. All new residents are tested for Covid-19 upon admission as well as placed in our spacious and comfortable Patients Under Investigations (PUI) unit. All residents who are positive for Covid-19, whether it is prior to admission or afterwards, a

re placed in our Covid-19 unit. All staff are provided proper PPE for use in each unit and are encouraged to continue education and competency in treating and caring for our PUI and Covid-19 residents.

Staff and residents are monitored daily for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19 as well as tested on at least a weekly basis, or as required by the State, as dictated in NJ ED No. 20-026.1 ([Executive Directive](#)).

If normal operating procedures need to be altered in an emergency situation, Doctors Subacute Care will always refer to the State for guidance and follow all recommended procedures. In the event of a staffing crisis, Doctors Subacute Care has an Emergency Staffing Plan. This plan can be accessed here: [..\State\Emergency Staffing Strategies pdf.pdf](#)

The facility reports to NHSN on a twice-weekly basis all positive Covid test results, as well as PPE stock levels and nursing staffing levels.

We also understand the difficulties of having a loved one in a Healthcare Center or a Rehab Center. Therefore, it is the policy of the facility to allow families the option to see with their loved ones via virtual meetings.

Families will arrange these meetings with our Recreation Department. The number to call is 973-942-8899. Residents have the right to refuse any in-person or virtual visit from anyone. Families will receive weekly updates into the resident activities and resident happenings at Doctors Subacute Care. The facility policy and procedure regarding virtual communication can be found here: [Virtual Communication Policy and Procedure.pdf](#)

In the event of an outbreak of an outbreak at Doctors Subacute Care which adequate staffing in the building, a contract is in place with a nursing agency to provide CNA's and Nurses as needed. This resource will be valuable in obtaining staff in the event that in-house staff are unable to work due to the virus. A copy our Emergency Staffing Strategy can be found above.