



## COVID-19 Preparation and Response

At Faith and Family Supportive Care & Hospice our goal regarding the concern of spreading COVID-19 is to protect our employees, our patients, and any facility staff or residents that we encounter. Protection from the spread of this virus includes education on its transmission as well as diligent practice of standard, contact, and droplet precautions for infection control. We know that transmission of this occurs mainly through close contact, within six feet, often by respiratory droplets from an infected person (cough or sneezes). It is also possible for an individual to become infected by touching the surface of an object that has the virus on it and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. The virus causes respiratory illness with symptoms of coughing, fever, and shortness of breath. Given the highly transmissible nature and little-known treatments for the virus, reducing the transmission of the virus is our best defense. Below are some of the details on how we are preparing for and managing any actual or potential infection(s) related to COVID-19.

In order to ensure effective infection control techniques are being practiced within our agency, all employees of Faith and Family Supportive Care & Hospice have been re-educated on proper use personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as effective handwashing techniques. The links below were used for this review. The staff members reviewed this education material between the dates of March 2, 2020 through March 5, 2020.

- From the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/index.html>
- A handwashing course: <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/training/interactiveEducation/>
- How to don and remove PPE: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>

In addition to the education review of handwashing and proper PPE use we have implemented new policies and procedures related to management of PPE for our employees as well as management of medical equipment to ensure proper infection control practices are being used to prevent the spread of any infection.

With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) we know that screening is an important part of the process for preventing the spread of this virus. We have developed a two-level screening process for our patients. Level one includes the addition of COVID-19 screening questions for our patients that has been built into our physical assessment within our Electronic Medical Record (EMR). Level two is an enhanced screening tool that is implemented in areas where there are confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We have also implemented use of the **COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response** document, created specifically for our agency based on current recommendations from the CDC and the WHO. This is a dynamic tool that we will continue to revise and adapt as the situation evolves. This tool details preparedness techniques as well as response required when a positive screening takes place.

With these precautions in place and new tools implemented to help prevent the spread of the virus we hope to reassure everyone that we are actively monitoring the situation and working to ensure the safety of all those we encounter.