

**THE HIGHLANDS at BRIGHTON**  
**Departmental Policy & Procedure**

<b>Department: Nursing/ Infection Control</b>	<b>Effective Date: 10/2/2024</b>	<b>Policy # PDM-1</b>
<b>Title: Community Base Care: Pandemic Infection Policy</b>		<b>Page 1 of 5</b>
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<b>Prepared by:</b>	Walter Winiarczyk, Administrator Dr. Jen Muniak, Medical Director Danny White, DON Mary Cole, Infection Control RN
<b>Purpose:</b>	The purpose of this policy is to reduce the risk of spread of Pandemic infection (i.e. Influenza, SARS, COVID-19) transmission to health care workers, residents, volunteers, and other affiliates and to ensure appropriate communication with affected parties.
<b>Applies To:</b>	All Community Based Care/LTC associates, volunteers, students and providers
<b>Policy:</b>	The primary goal is early detection, isolation and treatment of persons with a probable or suspect viral respiratory infection and communication to affected parties. The plan will be periodically updated based on changes from regulatory agencies.
<b>What is a Pandemic</b>	A pandemic is a global outbreak that results from the emergence of a new (novel) virus (not a common seasonal virus) that can cause serious illness in humans, and spreads easily from person to person. Control measures will be instituted based on the case definition identified by epidemiologic criteria from the CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL and/or NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.
<b>Surveillance &amp; Triage</b>	1. Health Care Workers will be alerted to ask appropriate screening and triage questions to staff and residents during the pandemic period. 2. All residents who present with respiratory symptoms should immediately be given a surgical mask if they are able to wear it and be evaluated for influenza

or other viral respiratory illness.

3. Health Care Workers should don appropriate personal protective equipment based on the CDC and NYSDOH guidance.

4. Perform contact investigation. Look beyond the resident; contacts may be infectious too. Assess whether roommate or other residents with close contact are ill with similar symptoms. Institute appropriate control measures.

**Control  
Measures:**

Until a specific Pandemic viral respiratory illness has been ruled out,



b.

<i>Reviewed By</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Reviewed with Staff</i>	<i>Date</i>
Walter Winiarczyk	10/2/24	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Reviewed w/all HAB Staff	10/2/24
Danny White	10/2/24	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Mary Cole, RN	10/2/24	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Dr. Jen Muniak	10/2/24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		10/2/24

## Appendix A

Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette to contain respiratory secretions, all persons with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, regardless of presumed cause, should be instructed to:

- Cover the nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Use tissues to contain respiratory secretions.
- Dispose of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle after use.
- Perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

Healthcare facilities should ensure the availability of materials for adhering to respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette in waiting areas for residents and visitors:

- Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal.
- Provide conveniently located dispensers of alcohol-based hand rub.
- Provide soap and disposable towels for handwashing where sinks are available.

### Masking and separation of persons with symptoms of respiratory infection

During periods of increased respiratory infection in the community, persons who are coughing should be offered either a procedure mask (i.e., with ear loops) or a surgical mask (i.e., with ties) to contain respiratory secretions. Coughing persons should be encouraged to sit as far away as possible (at least 6 feet) from others in common waiting areas. Some facilities may wish to institute this recommendation year-round.