

Infection Control Strategies to Keep Nursing Home Residents and Staff Safe

Caitlin Pedati, MD, MPH, Iowa State Epidemiologist and Chair, CSTE Healthcare Associated Infection Subcommittee

Jeffrey Engel, MD, Senior Adviser for COVID-19 and former Executive Director, CSTE



Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Lessons Learned from King County, WA to Los Angeles County, CA: March to May



- COVID-19 in a Long-Term Care Facility — King County, Washington, February 27–March 9, 2020

March 18, 2020, MMWR Early Release.

- Asymptomatic and Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections in Residents of a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility — King County, Washington, March 2020

March 27, 2020, MMWR Early Release.

- Universal and Serial Laboratory Testing for SARS-CoV-2 at a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility for Veterans — Los Angeles, California, 2020

May 22, 2020, MMWR Early Release.

The Perfect Storm



ASYMPTOMATIC
&
PRESYMPTOMATIC
TRANSMISSION

VULNERABLE POPULATION
INDOORS
CROWDED

OUTBREAKS WITH
HIGH MORBIDITY
&
HIGH MORTALITY

A Coordinated Approach



- State Public Health Agency: Epidemiologic science, lab testing
- State Facilities Services Agency: Regulatory
- Other Stakeholders: Elected officials, emergency management, media and public

A Coordinated Approach



- State Public Health Agency
 - State and local resources
- State Facilities Services Agency
 - Existing and new relationships
- Other Stakeholders
 - Parent companies
 - Associations
 - Quality improvement organizations
 - Infection prevention associations and networks
 - Patients, families and staff
 - General public

Key Challenges



- Sentinel sites for a variety of public health issues
 - Influenza
 - Resistant bacterial infections
 - COVID-19
- Facility size
 - Denominator
 - Susceptible population
- Facility lay out
 - Units
 - Hallways
 - Buildings
- Type of facility
 - Services offered
 - License
 - Regulatory entity

Key Challenges



- Resource and expertise availability
 - Infectious disease medicine and pharmacy
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Testing resources
- Workforce challenges
 - Employees working in several facilities
 - Exclusion of infected and ill personnel
- Reporting – need for consistency and coordination
 - State and federal
 - Variety of systems
 - Cases, supply, and workforce needs

- Subject matter expertise
 - Epidemiology
 - Infection control
- Testing and PPE supplies
- Workforce solutions
- Communication plans (internal and external)
- Stakeholder coordination



Thank you!

CSTE National Office
2635 Century Parkway NE, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

T 770.458.3811
F 770.458.8516
jarieh@cste.org