

March 9, 2020

Dear Nursing Home Partner in Care,

We are grateful for the thoughtful plans that you have put in place to prevent COVID-19 infections in your facility. Our post-acute and long term care residents, families, and community have entrusted us with their care and your preparations honor that trust.

While some public reactions to this virus have been fear-driven, we know that high concern is warranted for our patient population. This virus is disproportionately deadly for frail elders and any spread of this virus within our resident population would be devastating.

It is our goal to prevent this virus from infecting any of our residents. We can only hope to accomplish this with your continued vigilance and dedication and we will help you in any way we can.

In reviewing the policies at over a dozen facilities, we wanted to highlight a few best practices. We also are asking for your help answering 4 more questions that will help you to increase your readiness.

Best Practices:

- Crisis team in place with daily huddles
- Visitor limits and offering patients and families help with digital communication
- Temperature and symptom screening log for employees and visitors
- PPE (N95model/size, face shield, gown, gloves) and sanitizer inventory assessment
- Role appropriate training and retraining
- Practice Donning and Doffing PPE
- New admission screening policy
- Unsupervised visitor entry screening plans
- Plans to for static assignments during outbreak
- Employees working elsewhere should change into fresh clothes
- Detailed dietary staff training
- Cross training employees
- Making HR sick leave policies available to staff

Additional Questions:

- Do you have an accurate count on supplies?
- Are you short on any supplies? Which supplies?
- Have you completed PPE Donning and Doffing drills for care staff?
- Have you and your lab established a testing procedure for patients?

Please send your responses to the “Additional Questions” to our regional leadership (Dr. Navarro/Gio Gutierrez, Dr. Cheng/Stacey Ringham, or Dr. Baldwin/Janelle Smith).

Sincerely,



Department of Geriatric Medicine
Albert Lam, M.D.
Chair