

COVID-19 Outbreak Pre-Planning and Management for Long-Term Care & Post-Acute Care Facilities

Sean C. Cannone, DO, CMD

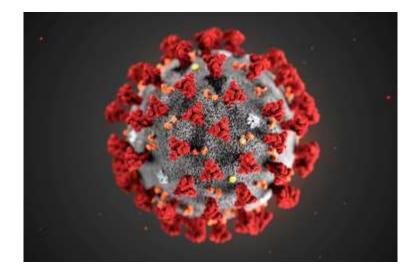
University Hospitals; Cleveland, OH Medical Director of Post-Acute Care and Home Care UH COVID-19 Hospital Incident Command System Lead for Congregate Care Settings ODH COVID-19 Zone 1 Co-Clinical Lead





Objectives:

- Review the impact of COVID-19 on nursing homes in NE Ohio and the establishment of a Zone/Region coalition strategy by the ODH to better engage and respond to needs in highrisk congregate settings.
- Overview of the University Hospitals "Playbook" resource manual that serves as a guide to COVID-19 outbreak pre-planning and management for Long-Term Care and Post-Acute Care facilities.
- Introduction to the University Hospitals "Intercept" strategy for providing support to congregate facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic in three phases: pre-planning, outbreak management, and recovery.







Ohio C19 Zone/Region Map

Zones & Regions:

- Zone 1 = Regions 1, 2, 5
- Zone 2 = Regions 4, 7, 8
- Zone 3 =Regions 3, 6

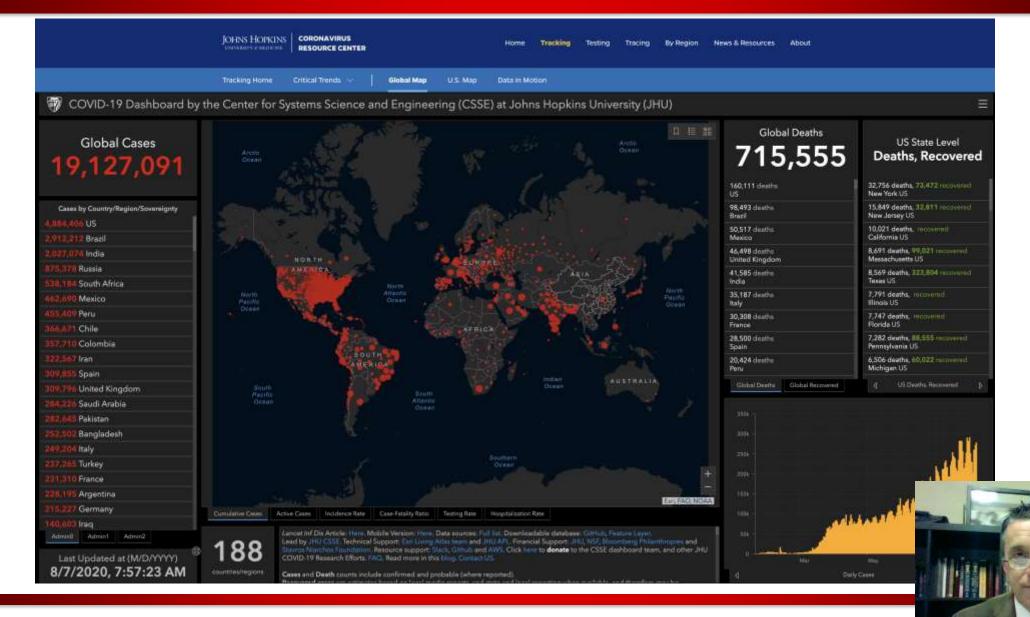
Zone 1 Roles:

- UH Hospital Incident Command System
 Lead for Congregate Care Settings
- ODH Co-clinical lead with Dr. Alice Kim
- Zone clinical advisor to ODH
- Health Care Isolation Center application, approval & implementation process



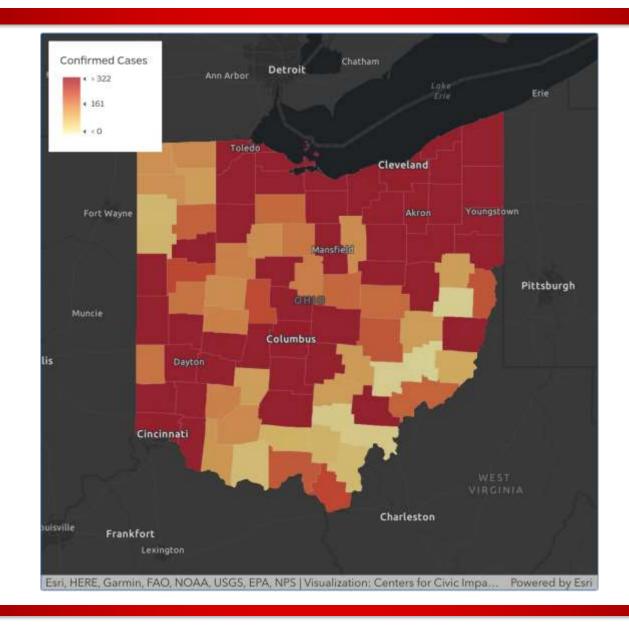






Source: Johns Hopkins University & Medicine; https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html accessed August 8, 2020.



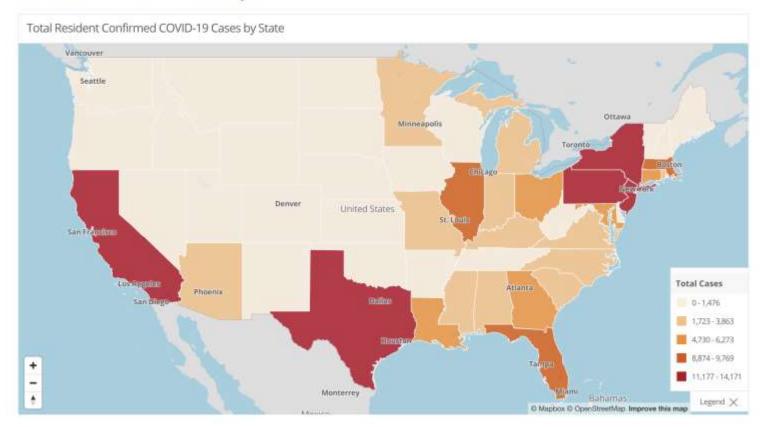




Source: Johns Hopkins University & Medicine; https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/ohio accessed August 8, 2020.



Total Resident Cases by State

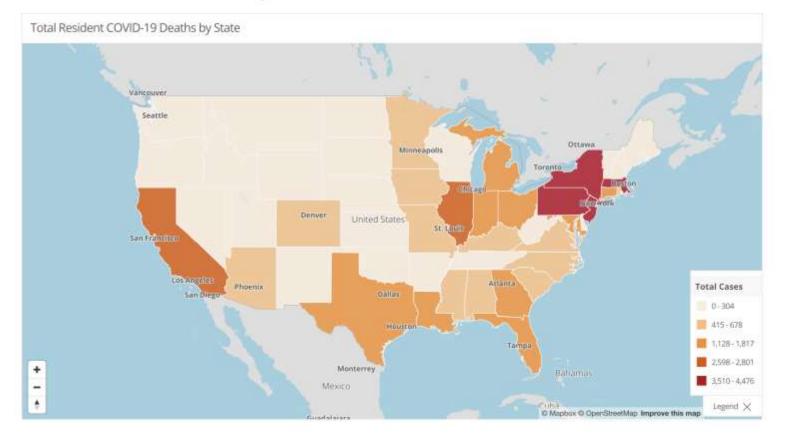




Source: CMS; https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg/ accessed August 8, 2020.



Total Resident Deaths by State





Source: CMS; <u>https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg/</u> accessed August 8, 2020. © University Hospitals, 2020.



UH COVID-19 Strategy

Pre-Pandemic:

- Hospital Incident Command System
 (HICS) with Post-Acute Care Lead
- Search for Isolation Centers
- Telehealth Preparedness
- Remote Monitoring Capability
- Patient Transfer Communication Tool

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NF-A

Large Urban Nursing Facility / Existing PAQN Relationship / Engaged Medical Director / Highly Engaged County Health Department / High Hospital Surge / High Mortality

NF-B

Large Suburban Nursing Facility / No Existing Relationship / Engaged Medical Director / Minimally Engaged County Health Department / Mod Hospital Surge / High Mortality







UH COVID-19 Strategy

Early Pandemic:

- Collaboration with the UH Core Lab and UH Home Care to develop & implement a strategy to support both mass and ad hoc COVID-19 PCR testing in nursing homes
- Development of a COVID-19 outbreak preplanning & management education and resource guide for nursing homes, which became known as the UH nursing facility "*Playbook*"
- Formation of the UH C19 Intercept Team and strategy for supporting nursing facilities and other congregate care sites

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UH COVID-19 Strategy

The "Playbook":

- C19 Outbreak Pre-Planning and Management for Long-Term Care and Post-Acute Care Facilities
- UH Best Practices & Protocols based on CDC / CMS / ODH / NIH / WHO guidance and policy.
- The "Seven Pillars" strategy:
 - 1) Team Building
 - 2) Transmission Reduction
 - 3) Triage Preparedness
 - *4) Targeted Conversations*
 - 5) Telehealth Capabilities
 - 6) Test & Treat in Place
 - 7) Transitions of Care



*Disseminated to our PAQN nursing facility partners via email (PDF) with associated links to a cloud-based educational program





Forming an interdisciplinary coalition of healthcare stakeholders: *Team Building*

- Nursing Facility Administrator
- Director of Nursing
- Medical Director
- Providers (Physicians & APPs)
- Health Department
- o Consultant Pharmacist
- Hospital Clinical Leadership (CMO/CNO)
- HICS (Hospital Incident Command Structure) Post-Acute Care Liaison
- o Others: EMS/Transportation; Infectious Disease Specialist; Hospice & Home Health Care

Designate a hospital-based representative who can serve

- as a centralized contact point for team communication,
 - coordination of resources, and daily reporting





COVID-19: Daily Reporting

Team-Based Reporting for Situational Awareness:

COVID-	19 Daily Facility Situatio	n Report		
Today's Date (00/00/00)	1			_
Facility Information				_
Facility Name				
Street Address	-			
City				
Zip Code	6			
County				
	1.8			
Current Patient Census	SNF	LTC	AL/IL	
Number of Patients In-House	3	0	0	0
Number of C-19 Positive		0	0	0
Number of C-19 Persons Under Investigation (PUI)		0	0	0
Number of C-19 Test Pending		0	0	0
Employee Status	RN/LPN	Nursing Assistant	Ancillary Services	-
Number of C-19 Positive	A STREET AND A STR	New Sing Assistant	0	(
Number of C-19 PUI		0	0	-
Number of C-19 Test Pending		0	0	0
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Code Status of Patients	Full Code	DNR CC Arrest	DNR CC	
Number of Unstable or Declining Positive/PUI In-House		0	0	0
PPE Supplies	# of Days Left In Stock	-		
N95 Masks		o		
Face Shields		0		
Gloves		D		
Gowns		0		
Shoe/Boot Covers		D		
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Staffing Vacancy	RN/LPN	Nursing Assistant	EVS/Nutrition	
Based on Pre COVID-19 Staffing Levels	05	6 0	%	0%





Transmission Reduction

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Reducing the risk of viral transmission in the facility: *Transmission Reduction*

- Routine screening of all residents, staff and visitors
- Restricted access of all symptomatically ill and/or non-essential persons
- Reduction of close contact exposure (6' social and professional distancing)
- Consolidated resident care activities (including med-pass) with dedicated staffing
- Utilization of virtual care platforms (for staff and providers)
- Ongoing training and monitoring of transmission-based precautions (e.g. isolation techniques, droplet & contact precautions), handwashing, cough technique, social/professional distancing, donning & doffing of PPE
 - Environmental strategies such as enhanced ventilation systems; sterilization or sanitization of PPE, surfaces, objects (including personal devices, floors/shoes, equipment, etc.); dedicated staff entrance with area to store personal items
- Masking of staff when providing close contact resident care
- Plan and establish a COVID-19 Isolation/Cohort Unit





COVID-19: Screening & Monitoring

Screening & Monitoring of Residents, Staff & Visitors:

Establish persons with suspected illness as **COVID-19 PUI (Person Under Investigation)** if falling into one or more of these categories:

- 1) Clinical Features of COVID-19
 - Fever (≥ 100.4°F/38°C or ≥2°F above established baseline)
 - Cough
 - Dyspnea (shortness of breath)
 - Other viral-like symptoms: Chills, muscle/body aches, fatigue, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness or lethargy, rhinorrhea (runny nose), nasal congestion, etc.
- 2) Close contact/exposure with a person having confirmed COVID-19+ status
- 3) Travel risk (per CDC guidelines)

Staff with clinical features of COVID-19 should: 1) not return to work,
2) be tested, 3) self-isolate and wear a mask at all times, 4) wash hands often, 5) be cleared for resumption of work duties based on CDC guidance through a symptom or time-based strategy.





Creating capacity for COVID+ and COVID-PUI in your facility: *Triage Preparedness*

- Utilize intra/inter-facility movement of stable, non-COVID residents to free space
 - Transition stable long-stay residents to the home/community:
 - Clinically and cognitively stable with adequate caregiver support
 - Consider the utilization of Home Health Care services
 - Facilitate telephonic and/or virtual telehealth/telemonitoring services to extend nursing support, care coordination efforts, and provider visits to the home
 - Partner with local home-based provider groups (if available)
 - Transition clinically stable short-stay (skilled) residents to the home/community, effectively reducing targeted length-of-stay in the SNF through the early coordination of Home Health Care and home-based provider services to achieve a safe but accelerated discharge timeline.



Triage Preparedness

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COVID-19: Isolation/Quarantine Cohort Strategy

Preparing the COVID Isolation/Quarantine units within a nursing facility:

Proactively decanting and designating a space within the nursing facility for COVID+ and COVID-PUI residents is essential to reducing the rate of viral transmission among both staff and residents. Basic elements include:

- 1) Should be divided into two (2) separate but adjacent areas within the isolation/cohort unit:
 - COVID+ (tested and confirmed cases)
 - COVID-PUI (suspected or presumed COVID+ with/without a pending COVID test)
- 2) Private rooms (preferable)
- 3) Proximity to a separate facility entrance
- 4) Dedicated staffing (consider utilizing staff who have been confirmed COVID+ but are now able to return to work per CDC guidelines)
- 5) Adequate and readily accessible supply of PPE on the unit; dedicated areas for donning/doffing
- 6) Consider a system for remote patient vital sign monitoring to monitor residents for decompensation in real time and to limit close contact exposure and PPE utilization for staff

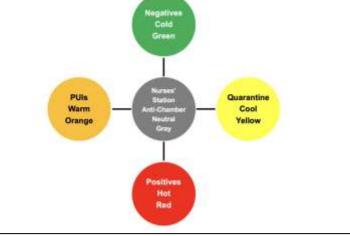




COVID-19: Resident Cohorting Strategy

Cohorting Zones:

Green	Orange	Red	Yellow
COVID-19 Negative "Cold" Unit General Population <u>Strategy</u> : Protect and Defend; Mask, Screen and Test as Indicated	COVID-19 PUI "Warm" Unit Isolate Strategy: Test for COVID-19 and Cohort Accordingly	COVID-19 Positive "Hot" Unit Isolate <u>Strategy:</u> Time, Symptom and/or Test- Based Strategy for Transition	Quarantine 'Cool' Unit Cool Down Area for Patients Moving from Orange/Red <u>Strategy</u> Safer Re- Opening and Transition to General Population







Advance Care Planning & End-of-Life Conversations:

Targeted Conversations

- Coordinated effort between facility staff and healthcare providers
- Proactive engagement in ACP conversations with all residents/responsible parties
- Address clinical conditions, prognosis and goals of care emphasizing the special considerations related to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis; consider utilizing a tool such as The Conversation Project¹ or Serious Illness Conversation²
- Engage with local hospice providers to understand their COVID-19 capacities and to create strategies for streamlined communication with residents/families
- Plan with local EMS/transportation and hospitals ways to safely transport and admit residents with COVID-19 to limit exposure of healthcare workers and conserve PPE
 - Ensure that advance directives known, accessible, communicated, and transferred with the patient to the next site of care



1 – The Conversation Project; © 2020 Institute for Healthcare Improvement & Ariadne Labs. 2 – Serious Illness Conversation; © 2015 Ariadne Labs

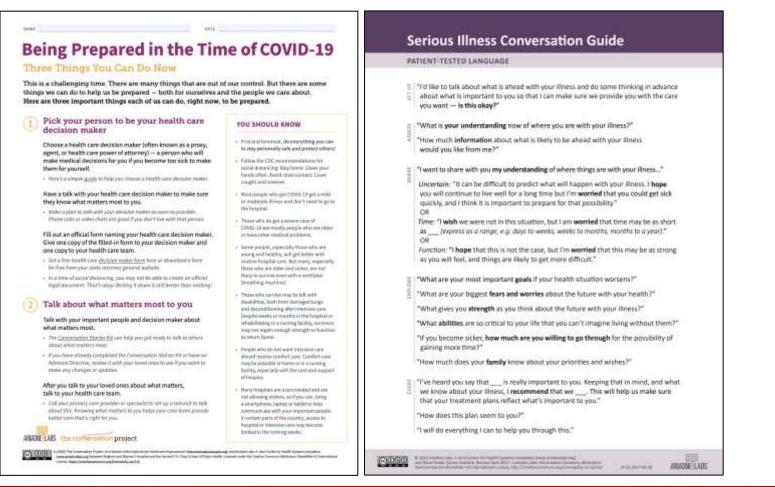
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COVID-19: Advance Care Planning

Advance Directives & Goals of Care Conversations:





1 – The Conversation Project; © 2020 Institute for Healthcare Improvement & Ariadne Labs. 2 – Serious Illness Conversation; © 2015 Ariadne Labs



Leveraging the capabilities of technology to provide care: *Telehealth Capabilities*

- Select a facility-based virtual/telehealth platform which is simple to implement
- Options during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis include common technologies that are not generally acceptable in healthcare settings: Zoom[®], Skype[®], FaceTime[®], etc.
- Test your system in advance and develop protocols for use that help to coordinate staff and providers (especially when their access to patients is limited by COVID-19 restrictions or infection)
- Apply technology in practical ways that help to reduce close personal contact with COVID+ or COVID-PUI residents, maximize efficiency of staff and providers, and conserve PPE
 - Provider (physician/APP) visits offsite and potentially onsite
 - Nursing & interdisciplinary team rounding
 - Communication between the resident and family, friends, clergy, and other healthcare specialists/providers





Managing clinically stable COVID-19 residents in the facility: *Test & Treat in Place*

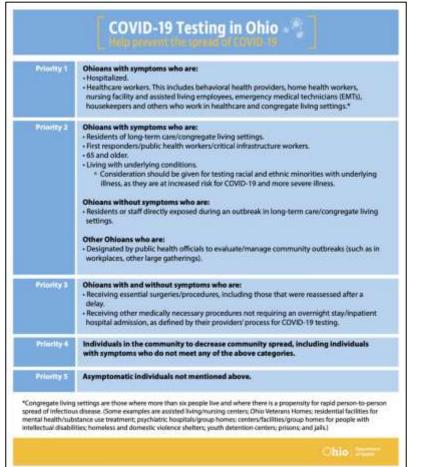
- Practical aspects to COVID-19 testing in LTC/PAC facilities:
 - Testing and result reporting should be in done in coordination with local public health and other healthcare coalition stakeholders
 - Clinically stable residents should not be transferred to a local hospital for testing
 - Be mindful of local/regional laboratory testing capacity and prioritization guidance
 - Testing Strategies:
 - Mass/Cohort: Large scale staff and/or resident testing, which may be performed by facility staff or an outside strike/swab team
 - **Ad Hoc**: Ongoing daily testing performed on staff/residents as necessary
 - Avoid testing with laboratories having protracted result turnaround times
 - RT-PCR vs. antibody vs. antigen testing; AN vs. NP swabbing
 - Understand the interpretation and value of PCR test results
 - Prepare in advance for results





COVID-19: Hospital Admissions

ODH Testing Prioritization Guidance:







Managing clinically stable COVID-19 residents in the facility: *Test & Treat in Place*

- Practical aspects to COVID-19 treatment in LTC/PAC facilities:
 - Management of COVID-19 is supportive in nature (i.e. fluids*, oxygen supplementation, fever-reducing medications, symptom relief, etc.)
 - Caution should be undertaken with the administration of nebulized drugs
 - Monitor for hypercoagulability and thrombotic complications related to COVID-19 infection and consider anticoagulation when necessary
 - **Remdesivir**: Due to limited supplies, consider use in hospitalized patients requiring supplemental oxygen but not requiring high-flow oxygen, noninvasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or ECMO** (See NIH Guidance)
 - Dexamethasone: Consider the use of corticosteroids (preferably dexamethasone) when appropriate for patients who are mechanically ventilate or who are requiring supplemental oxygen (See NIH guidance)

There are no drugs or other therapeutics presently approved by the FDA to prevent or treat COVID-19





Transferring COVID+ or COVID-PUI to another healthcare setting: Transitions of Care

- Refrain from sending clinically stable patients to the hospital for COVID-19 testing or solely based on their COVID-19 infection/exposure status...whenever possible
 - Hospitalize only when medically necessary and in accord with goals of care
 - Attempt to transfer/admit prior to 911 necessity
- Pre-transfer communication with the receiving facility is essential
 - Include advance directives and code status documentation with the patient
 - Use established protocols for direct hospital admission when appropriate
 - Communicate COVID-19 Status with EMS/transportation
 - Send the patient with their medications, especially MDIs and other respiratory drugs
- Utilize a HCIC* when unable to isolate/quarantine in place



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COVID-19: Hospital Admissions

Direct Admissions through the Transfer Center:

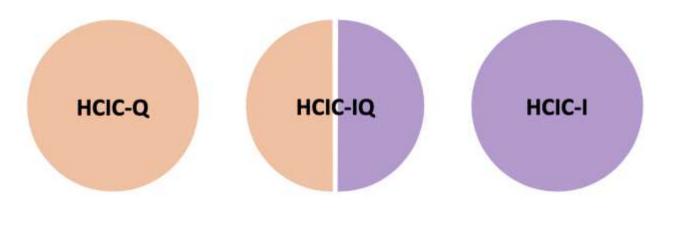
Required Information for D	Frect Admits fro	m SNFs & Other Congreg	ate Living Settings
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Patient Name	1	26.4.5960.02564.5	
Patient DOB			
COVID-19 Status P-Pastive: Notegative: Public Person Linder Investigation: NT-Max Tested, PP-Past Positive)			
Current COVID-like symptoms			
	MOST RECENT SI	ET OF VITAL SIGNS	
Temperature	Heart Rate		
Respiratory Rate	Weight		
Blood Pressure	Pulse		
Oxygen Needs	-	1	
TRANSPORT NEEDS	Yes		Na
Cardiac Monitor			
N.			
Dxygen Therapy			
Notes			
- Province of the second second	RECEIVING HO	SPITAL REQUEST	
Name of Desired Hospital Oty of Desired Hospital			
Desired Level of Care			
Desired Level of Care			
	FACILITY CONTA	CT INFORMATION	
Facility Name	1		
Facility Address	-		
Facility Contact Name			
Facility Contact Phone Number			
Patient Location (floor/unit)			
	PRIMARY CA	RE PHYSICIAN	
Facility Physician		Facility Phone Number	
PCP Name	-	PCP Phone Number	
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		CPFM 216-844-1111	





COVID-19: Health Care Isolation Centers (HCIC) ODH HCIC Initiative:

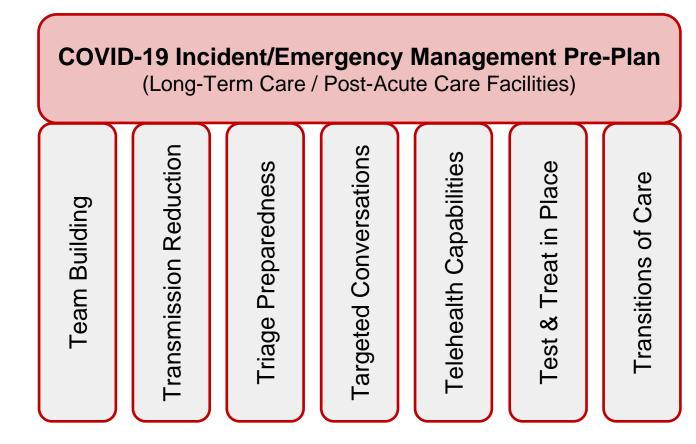
- Health care Isolation centers (HCICs) provide a "COVID-19 level of care" and/or a "quarantine level of care." HCICs will be categorized as follows:
 - An HCIC-Q will provide only a quarantine level of care (services for the individuals shown in orange above).
 - An HCIC-I will provide only a COVID-19 level of care (services for the individuals shown in purple above).
 - An HCIC-IQ will provide both a quarantine level of care and a COVID-19 level of care (individuals shown in orange and purple above) in separate units.







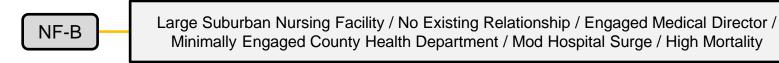
COVID-19: 7 Pillars Strategy







Large Urban Nursing Facility / Existing PAQN Relationship / Engaged Medical Director / Highly Engaged County Health Department / High Hospital Surge / High Mortality





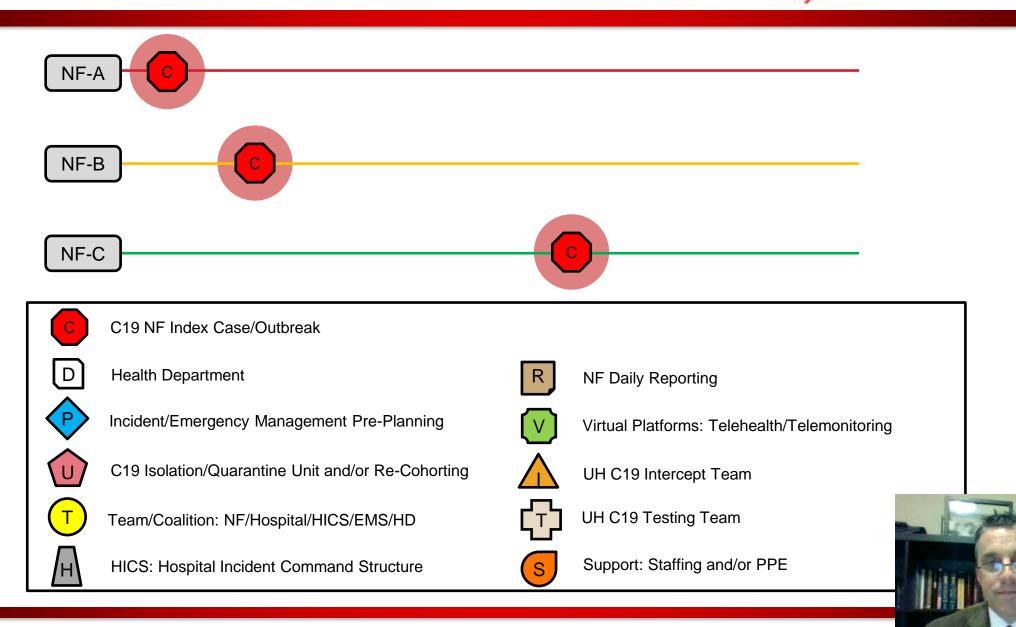
NF-A

Large Rural Nursing Facility / Existing PAQN Relationship / Engaged Medical Director / Moderately Engaged County Health Department / Low Hospital Surge / High Mortality



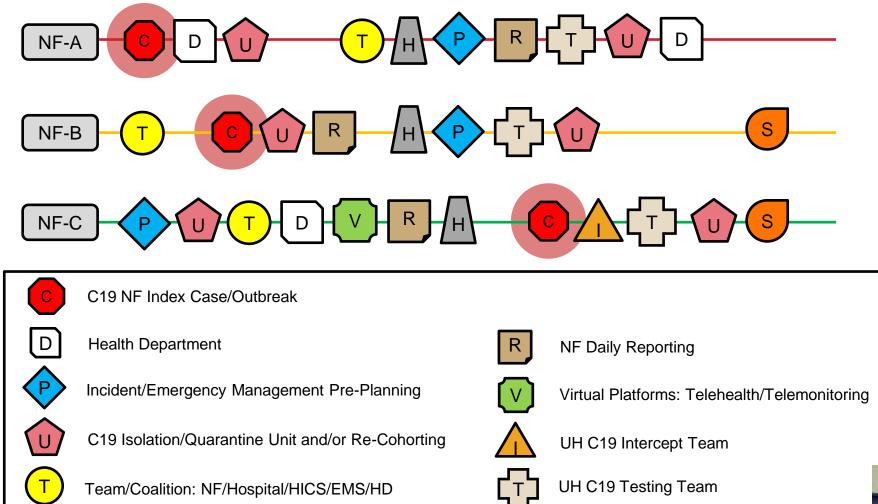
UH COVID-19: Origins of the Intercept Team Strategy





UH COVID-19: Origins of the Intercept Team Strategy





HICS: Hospital Incident Command Structure

Н



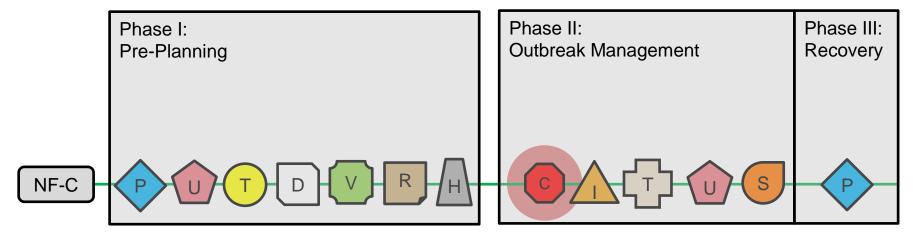
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Support: Staffing and/or PPE





Three (3) Critical Phases of Coalition-Based COVID-19 Incident Management



Phase I: Preparing the NF; Forming the coalition; Formalizing the strategy

Phase II: Rapid Response to a NF COVID-19 Index Case; Re-assess the facility structure and resources; Assess resident population (i.e. clinical needs, advance directives, etc.); Retraining and monitoring infection control practices; Centralized communication, Daily situational reporting and coordination of resource support (e.g. testing, staffing, and PPE); Coalition integration (i.e. local hospital, public health and local EMS); Clinical and situational management (testing, treatment, isolation/quarantine, etc.)

Phase III: Recovery to pre-outbreak status; Return to work protocols for infected/exposed staff; Return to population protocols for infected/exposed residents; Facility Re-opening; Return to pre-planning for subsequent outbreak



UH Intercept Strategy - Video







Intercept Team Construction:

- 4 Acute Care NPs
- 2 EMS/Disaster Medics
- 1 Resident/Family Advocate
- 1 Licensed Nursing Home Administrator
- 2 Physicians
 - Emergency Medicine & Epidemiology
 - Geriatrics (LTC/PAC) & Population Health
- <u>Ancillary Support</u>: HICS Leadership; Laboratory Leadership; Home Care Leadership; Infectious Disease; Palliative Care; Transitions Teams Leadership; Hospital Leadership (Presidents/CMO/CNO); Data/Analytics; Material Supply Chain Leadership; UH Legal/Counsel





Intercept Strategy Impact:

• Ohio Department of Health (ODH): C19 Clinical Advisor to the office of Governor Mike DeWine; Medicaid Director, Maureen Corcoran; and Medicaid Medical Director, Dr. Mary Applegate

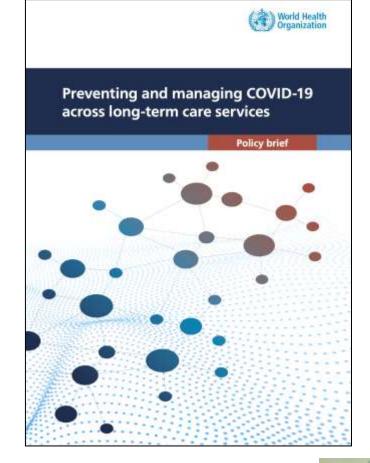






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- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): Met with Director Seema Verma during her visit to University Hospitals July 23, 2020 to discuss the UH C19 Intercept strategy for nursing facilities.







C19 Ongoing Initiatives

Coalition Partnerships:

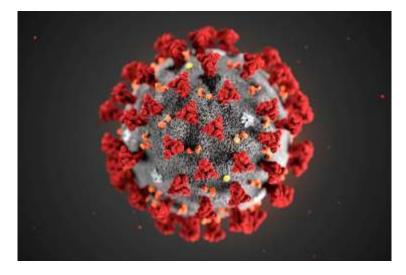
- Data & analytics sharing with geospatial mapping of testing, positivity, EMS runs, hospital admissions/surge capacity, etc.
- Direct hospital admission protocols through a transfer center process to bypass EMS/ED
- Regular status calls between public health, hospital system leadership, and zone leadership
- Red-Cap surveys for nursing facility situational reporting and needs reporting/assessment
- Nursing facility & hospital attribution list to load balance testing, PPE and staffing support
- Ohio National Guard benchmark testing and routine testing of all nursing home staff
- ODH strike and bridge team development and support for crisis outbreak situations
- CarePort COVID-19 electronic facility profile to support care transitions
- Facility support: ICP education, PPE supply, testing support, etc.





Conclusions:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on nursing homes and other congregate sites of care which has necessitated a coalition response involving public health, facility leadership, and hospital engagement.
- Development and utilization of resources, like the UH "Playbook", has become foundational to helping nursing facilities (and other congregate sites of care) in both pre-planning and in the management of COVID-19 outbreaks.
- 3) The UH Intercept Team Strategy has been highly effective in giving onsite and virtual support to congregate facilities to help with resource allocation/utilization, protocol implementation, hospital and public health integration, testing and treatment strategies, as well as material and personnel support.







COVID-19 Outbreak Pre-Planning and Management for Long-Term Care & Post-Acute Care Facilities

Sean C. Cannone, DO, CMD

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