

CARING FOR HIGH POINTE HOUSE CASELOAD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This document guides the community health/hospice clinician through all procedures that have been developed to address the COVID-19 pandemic. As this pandemic evolves and the situation changes, these guidelines may be updated. Thank you for your commitment to our patients.



All patients admitted to High Pointe House will be tested for COVID-19 upon admission. Patients arriving from a hospital or facility are required to have a negative test result prior to the High Pointe House admission. Patients transferring to High Pointe House from home will be screened by a community nurse. Screening results will be entered into a Point Care Visit Alert and proper precautions will be enforced.

Section 1: Screening for patients transferring to High Pointe House from home

A.

All patients will be screened by a community nurse to determine PPE protocol at High Pointe House. Upon arrival, patient will be tested for COVID-19. Patient will continue to be screened daily by facility staff.

1. Is the patient experiencing the new onset or worsening of any of the following symptoms?
 - a. () FEVER OR CHILLS
 - b. () COUGH
 - c. () SHORTNESS OF BREATH
 - d. () FATIGUE
 - e. () CONGESTION OR RUNNY NOSE
 - f. () HEADACHE
 - g. () SORE THROAT
 - h. () LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
 - i. () MUSCLE OR BODY ACHES
 - j. () NAUSEA OR VOMITING
 - k. () DIARRHEA
2. Has the patient been tested due to active symptoms? (This does not apply to admission screening test at High Pointe House).
3. Is any household member of the patient COVID-positive?
4. Do you or a household member use a nebulizer? () YES () NO
 - a. If yes to use of nebulizer in the home:
 - i. When was the last nebulizer treatment?
 - ii. When is the next nebulizer treatment due?
 - iii. High Pointe House does not accept patients with nebulizers.

B.

If screening questions are negative, use Universal Precautions

C.

Actions for Positive Responses to Screening Questions

1. **If COVID screen is positive:**
 - a. Use droplet precautions and/or
 - b. Use precaution room if available
 - c. COVID test is needed. Continue using droplet precautions until patient tests negative, or if symptoms subside.
2. **If COVID screen is presumptive:**
 - a. Use droplet precautions
 - b. Use precaution room if available
 - c. COVID test is needed. Continue using droplet precautions until patient tests negative, or if symptoms subside.

SECTION 2: PPE definitions, agency PPE par levels and processes for managing PPE at High Pointe Hospice House

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

- Clinician maintains 6 feet social distance when able during the encounter.
- Patients, family members and volunteers are expected to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.
- Patients are expected to wear a mask during visits unless directed to remove for teaching purposes and/or examination.



FACE MASK



HAND HYGIENE



GLOVES

If invasive procedure



**SHIELD/
GOGGLES**

TYPE OF PATIENT VISIT

Negative COVID screen

All Patients not COVID presumptive or COVID positive

DROPLET PRECAUTIONS

ENVO N-95 or Traditional N-95
(Must wear face mask over ENVO N-95 mask due to the exhalation valve)



**FACE MASK
OVER ENVO**



**SHIELD/
GOGGLES**



HAND HYGIENE



GOWN



GLOVES

TYPE OF PATIENT VISIT

Positive screen to the screening questions
- contact clinical manager for relevance

COVID presumptive or COVID positive

PRECAUTION CHART	COVID-19+	COVID-19 Negative Patient in Rooms	Hallways/Lobby Screening Visitors	Café	Staff Break Room	Kitchen
Administration		Universal	Mask	Mask	Mask (unless eating) 6 feet apart	Mask
Housekeeping	Droplet	Universal	Mask	Mask	Mask (unless eating) 6 feet apart	Mask
Kitchen		Universal	Mask	Mask	Mask (unless eating) 6 feet apart	Mask
MSW/Chaplain		Universal	Mask	Mask	Mask (unless eating) 6 feet apart	Mask
MDs/NPs Nurse/Aides	Droplet	Universal	Mask	Mask	Mask (unless eating) 6 feet apart	Mask
Reception			Mask	Mask	Mask (unless eating) 6 feet apart	Mask
Volunteers		Universal	Mask	Mask		

A.

Care Strategies for Suspected and Confirmed Cases

A test-based strategy for discontinuing transmission based precautions is no longer recommended because, in the majority of cases, it results in prolonged isolation of patients who continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA, but are no longer infectious.

Symptom-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions.

1. Patients with mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised:

- a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
- b. At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Note: For patients who are not severely immunocompromised and who were asymptomatic throughout their infection, Transmission-Based Precautions may be discontinued when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

2. Patients with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised:

- a. At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
- b. At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Note: For severely immunocompromised patients who were asymptomatic throughout their infection, Transmission-Based Precautions may be discontinued when at least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

B.

Patient Care Guidelines for COVID+ Patients

1. Please refer to the posted guidelines located both inside and outside of the Precaution Room.

C.

Cleaning Guidelines for Care of Face Shield and ENVO Mask Between Patients

1. How to clean Face Shield between uses:

- a. Perform hand hygiene
- b. Don clean gloves
- c. Remove face shield by pinching straps on side of head and pulling up and outward
Place shields in plastic bin with dirty side up and wipe with 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe or bleach solution. Turn over and wipe with 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe/bleach solution or PDI wipe and leave for 2 minutes
- d. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene
- e. Don clean glove
- f. Wipe dry with paper towels
- g. Place in clean paper or plastic bag to store between uses or store at High Pointe House

2. How to clean ENVO mask between uses:

- a. Perform hand hygiene
- b. Don clean gloves
- c. Place one hand on front of mask
- d. Use second hand to remove straps from ears/head and neck
- e. Disassemble ENVO mask
- f. Place filter in plastic bag and discard
- g. Wipe down ENVO mask with 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe/bleach solution or PDI wipe. Allow to sit for 2 minutes, then wipe dry
- h. Place mask in a paper or plastic bag or store in protective case
- i. Perform hand hygiene

3. How to reapply ENVO mask:

- a. Perform hand hygiene
- b. Don clean gloves
- c. Remove mask from paper bag
- d. Insert new filter
- e. Reassemble mask
- f. Hold front of mask in one hand and use other hand to place strap behind neck
- g. Use both hands to place earpieces behind ears or loop the earpieces together in back of head
- h. Tighten strap at back of neck as needed
- i. Adjust face mask on face as needed to obtain a proper seal. Perform seal check
- j. Remove gloves, perform hand hygiene and prepare PPE for visit

4. How to reapply face shield:

- a. Don clean gloves
- b. Remove face shield from paper bag or protective case
- c. Place on head after mask

5. How to remove N-95:

- a. Don clean gloves
- b. Place one gloved hand on front of mask
- c. Utilize other hand to remove straps from back of head
- d. Discard used N-95 mask.