

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE/PANDEMIC EMERGENCY
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

SUBJECT: COMMUNAL DINING DURING INFECTIOUS DISEASE/PANDEMIC EMERGENCY

POLICY:

In an effort to help control and prevent the transmission of infectious disease/pandemic illness, the facility will cancel communal dining. The facility will continue to provide a person-centered approach to care which includes understanding each resident's individual needs and goals of care.

PROCEDURE:

1. Hand hygiene will be provided to all residents before and after meals.
2. Residents assessed to be capable of feeding themselves without supervision or assistance will be provided with in-room meal services.
3. Residents at high risk for choking or aspiration will be provided with meals in their room and supervised/assisted by staff.
4. Staff providing assistance with meals to residents on transmission-based precautions will wear all required PPE (i.e. gowns, gloves, N95 respirator, mask, and face shield) given the resident is at risk for coughing while eating.
5. Residents on dedicated cohort area for infectious agent will be provided with disposable dinnerware
6. Residents with infectious illness will remain in their rooms for meals and be provided with the level of assistance required per plan of care.
7. Meal consumption will be documented as per policy and plan of care.

Criteria for Residents with Special Needs: Residents who may be considered to use the Common Area for dining must be in the negative cohort group, and have a specific care plan to identify the need for use of the Common Area to ensure quality of life and quality of care.

1. Residents with "special needs" will be defined as those residents who are being placed in the Day Room for meals due to a need for ongoing supervision during meals. These residents include but are not limited to:

- a. Residents with Behavioral Management needs (i.e. Dementia);
 - b. Residents with depression and/or mood issues who refuse to stay in their rooms;
 - c. Residents at risk for aspiration precautions;
 - d. Residents who need quality of life pursuits to prevent decline;
 - e. Residents at high risk for falls;
 - f. Eating in the dining areas with appropriate social distancing only applies to residents without signs or symptoms of infectious agent, and without a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of infection.
2. If residents need to be brought to the common area for dining due to identified individual needs, the following interventions will be instituted:
 - a. Tables will be separated as far apart as possible, at least six (6) feet if practicable.
 - b. Ideally, residents will sit by themselves to ensure social distancing between residents can be maintained.
 3. Residents who require assistance with feeding should be spaced apart as much as possible, ideally six (6) feet or more and no more than one resident per table.
 4. Hand hygiene will be encouraged frequently while residents are in dining area.
 5. Residents will be encouraged to wear masks when brought into the dining area and while waiting for meals.
 6. Tables will be sanitized after meals and as needed.
 7. Meal consumption will be documented as per policy and plan of care.

Resources

CMS QSO-20-28-NH 4/24/20 Five Quality Rating System Update- Nursing Home Staff Counts and Frequently Asked Questions