INFECTION CONTROL IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS, FAMILIES AND VISITORS

What is Infection Control?

Infection Control is the practice by which the home prevents and manages infections. Infection Control principles are included in all aspects of providing care for all residents.

What is the Best Method of Preventing Infections?

Hand washing is the best method to prevent infections. In order to protect residents from infections, staff wash their hands often. We encourage residents and visitors to do the same. Hands are best washed when you arrive, and before you leave the building.

A paper towel should be used to turn off the taps to keep your hands clean after washing. Hand washing is the best prevention against the spread of infection.

Why Do Staff Sometimes Wear Gloves, Gowns and Masks?

It is sometimes necessary to take additional precautions. Gloves, gowns and masks may be worn to protect the resident and caregiver from potential infection.

Why Might I Be Asked Not to Visit in the Home?

Family members and visitors may be asked not to visit the home during an infectious disease outbreak when residents in the home are ill.

The purpose is to protect you and your family from the illness.

Family members and visitors should also not visit if they have colds, fever, or vomiting and diarrhea. Children who have been exposed to chickenpox are advised not to visit.

What Else Can I Do to Prevent Infections?

Immunization is important for all residents. Immunization is also important for individuals who are frequent visitors in long-term care homes.
Public Health recommends that residents receive:
- A single dose of tetanus and diphtheria booster every 10 years
- A single dose of pneumococcal vaccine (for those age 65 or over)
- A flu shot for influenza every fall

The influenza vaccine is the single most effective way of preventing the flu.

Should I Bring in Treats and Food?
Food and water are carefully monitored in the home to prevent any possible food poisoning. We ask that you not leave perishable food in a resident's drawer. Instead, please label all food with the resident's name and the date the food arrived so that it can be refrigerated by the staff.

It takes everyone working together to prevent infections and protect the residents.