

## Session 5: Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting during COVID-19

### Key Takeaways:

- **Know the difference between cleaning and disinfecting and the approved agents to use for each (e.g., use disinfectants from EPA List N for COVID-19 in nursing homes).**
- Engage across departments – implement schedule for clinical teams (e.g., nursing, dietary, therapeutic recreation) to conduct walk rounds or stand up meetings with housekeeping and maintenance teams to assess environment (resident rooms, bathrooms, common areas) and potential infection risks together.
- Team should conduct root cause analysis whenever there is an outbreak or a new case in order to determine whether or not appropriate cleaning and disinfecting was done, identify positive practices on units that do not have spread of COVID-19.

**Being visible on the units during the pandemic promotes teams' accountability to manage risks, including environmental risks, that may contribute to COVID-19 spread. The following question set can be used to facilitate discussions and reveal opportunities across and within key members of interprofessional teams, residents and visitors. Please consider using/adapting them in your next huddles or team meetings.**

### Questions by Content

Infection Prevention and Management Plan includes cleaning and disinfecting	Is there a section in your center's comprehensive infection prevention and management plan on how to clean and disinfect resident rooms, bathrooms, common areas? Does it describe how frequently to clean and disinfect each area, the person/s responsible, how to document? Does the plan include how to obtain approved cleaning and disinfecting agents and how to monitor the supply to prevent shortages?
Walking Rounds or Stand Up Meetings	Do clinical and non-clinical teams meet regularly to discuss environmental risks and how to address each? How frequently do these teams interact? Is leadership engaged or updated and how often?
Follow-Up Plan (monitoring over time)	Is each new case of COVID-19 reviewed and is a root cause analysis conducted in an effort to identify potential sources of new infections? Are cleaning and disinfecting supplies adequate and available to all relevant staff?
Improvement Concepts	Does someone regularly monitor and support workers responsible for cleaning and disinfecting by shadowing or auditing those processes and schedules? How is this documented and shared with leadership?

### Critical Questions for Leadership

	Is accountability for regular, routine and as needed cleaning and disinfecting clear in written policies and procedures, including aspects such as dwell time, selection of proper products, etc.? Does leadership review the data, and how often? What actions are taken as a result?
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### Key Concepts by Stakeholder Group

What do Medical Directors Need to know and discuss with the team?	Medical directors may need to confer with nursing, administration, housekeeping, maintenance, kitchen and laundry staff if there are questions about cleaning and disinfecting products, policies and procedures related to COVID-19 and environmental safety. Medical directors must be aware of potential staff or resident health risks related to cleaning products and disinfectants used in the center.
What do DONs and Directors of Housekeeping need to know?	DONs and Directors of Housekeeping must have reviewed the latest (current) EPA List N, CDC, CMS and state department of public health guidelines and regulations related to cleaning and disinfecting agents and processes, proper storage of chemicals and supplies, potential health risks to staff or residents with inadequate cleaning and disinfecting or exposure to potentially harmful chemical agents. DONs and Directors of Housekeeping must develop and monitor systems for ensuring available supplies of cleaning and disinfecting products and how to prevent shortages.
What Do Nurses/CNAs/housekeepers need to know?	Nurses, CNAs, housekeepers must know how to safely store cleaning and disinfecting products to ensure resident, staff, and visitor safety (when a locked, secure storage area should be used). They must know how and when to communicate with leadership about supply levels.
What does the interprofessional team need to know?	Teams must demonstrate open, frequent, supportive communication across and within departments, particularly between clinical, housekeeping and maintenance workers and leaders. Teams must discuss cleaning and disinfecting policies and procedures without blaming individuals for any lapses and must propose and test solutions that balance environmental safety with meaningful resident activities and freedom within the center.

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	Each member of the team must be able to describe to co-workers when and how to appropriately clean and disinfect resident rooms, bathrooms, common areas and any other areas within the center.
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