



## Infection Prevention and Control Outbreak Notice

**Outbreak Declared:** June 6, 2025

**Outbreak #** 2227-2025-00082

**Unit:** Willett Transitional Unit

**Organism:** COVID-19

### **Outbreak Summary:**

An outbreak of COVID-19 has been declared on the Willett Transitional Unit. The unit met the definition for an outbreak following the identification of two hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 within 48 hours. Please review the following infection prevention and control practices that must be in place:

### **Hand Hygiene and Enhanced Cleaning**

- 100 % compliance with hand hygiene for all healthcare providers is required.
- Provide education to patients on hand hygiene and encourage them to clean their hands.
- All patient care equipment must be cleaned after each use (vitals, commode, glucometer etc.)
- Staff should clean WOWs and frequently touched surfaces in the nurse's station throughout their shift.
- Environmental Services will be providing enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces on the unit.

### **Additional Precautions/Use of PPE:**

- Staff are to wear a medical mask for patient care or any patient interactions
- Follow droplet/contact precautions for all patients with symptoms of acute respiratory infection (ARI) and post isolation signage. Order enter (OE) an ARI alert flag.
- Staff are to wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when entering a droplet/contact isolation room (medical mask, eye protection, gown, and gloves).
- Collect a nasopharyngeal swab for patients with new symptoms of acute respiratory infection (ie. fever, cough, chills, headache, congestion, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose)
- Draw curtains in a multi-bed room if a patient develops symptoms of ARI and dedicate any equipment (ie. Vital signs machine).
- **Initiate Bed Space Precautions – Follow Desk Top Folder Link:**
- [S:\InfectionControl\IPAC Tools and Resources\DOCN\\_20220321\\_IPAC\\_Review\\_Bed\\_Space\\_Precautions.pdf](S:\InfectionControl\IPAC Tools and Resources\DOCN_20220321_IPAC_Review_Bed_Space_Precautions.pdf)
- Encourage patients with ARI symptoms to wear a mask while in their room and always if they leave their room for a test.
- Staff must always complete a point of care risk assessment (PCRA) and wear the appropriate PPE based on that PCRA.

### **Admissions/Other Information**

- IPAC is requesting that admissions to the unit be restricted for the next 24-48 hours.
- All patients admitted to the unit must have a COVID swab collected.
- Patients may be transferred off the unit for alternate level of care only but must remain in droplet/contact precautions on their own.
- An OTCOVCONT flag must be added to patients transferred off the unit.
- No group activities or communal dining.
- Essential care partners may be permitted or visitors for compassionate reasons at the discretion of the unit manager.
- Any visitors permitted on the unit must be wearing a mask.
- The unit will be responsible for notifying families about the outbreak.
- All patients will be tested for COVID-19 on June 7.

### **Organizational Health:**

- If you have minor symptoms that do not exclude you from work (example cough, congestion), we highly encourage the use of masks in common areas (nursing stations, break rooms) until symptom resolution.
- As always, if staff are febrile or have gastrointestinal symptoms, please do not attend work, and follow up with Organizational Health.
- No food or drink is to be consumed in the team station.