

Rhode Island Training School  
**Prevention, Screening, and Management (including quarantine) of  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
*Updated 3/12/2020*

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To provide guidance on the prevention and management of coronavirus at the Rhode Island Training School (RITS) that prioritizes maintaining the health and safety of all patients and staff at the facility.

**Prevention**

- All patients are offered influenza vaccines at the time of admission and periodically afterwards with appropriate consent
- All staff are encouraged to get a flu shot
- All staff and regular vendors/contractors are directed to remain out of work if they have fever and cough as per Department of Administration guidelines
- All family members, one-time visitors, and contractors will be screened (privately) prior to entering the facility– anyone with a cough, fever, or trouble breathing OR anyone who has had close contact with someone who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (“coronavirus”) in the last 14 days will not be allowed into the facility
- All common areas within the facility will be cleaned on a regular basis and documented on an “Area Cleaning Checklist” form that will be submitted to each area’s Administrator at the end of each shift
- All patients, staff, and visitors will have access to water, soap, and/or hand sanitizer and encouraged to maintain proper hand hygiene, minimize physical contact with others, and cough/sneeze into a sleeve/elbow
- Several rooms will be identified, cleaned, and stocked with quarantine supplies at any given time to be ready for a possible patient placed on medical quarantine status as below
- A temporary “Coronavirus Response Team” has convened (including RITS and Probation Administration as well as Medical Providers and Nursing Staff) and begun meeting 2-3 times per week to review updates and procedures

**Patient Screening**

- A screening will be conducted at intake (by nursing staff between 7 am - 11 pm or by the admitting Juvenile Program Worker (JPW) between 11 pm – 7 am) for any new patient to identify potential symptoms of or exposure to coronavirus and results will be documented on the “COVID-19 Screening Form”
- Any patient who reports cough or fever at any time while in the facility will be screened as above
- The following steps will be taken immediately with any positive screen:
  - Place a mask on the patient
  - Have the patient wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
  - Bring the patient to a single room, ideally with a private toilet
  - Contact the on-call Medical Provider or Medical Director for further direction
  - Contact the Shift Coordinators and request that they notify Nursing Staff, Clinical Director, Medical Director, and Administrator on-Call

**Management of individual patients with suspected or confirmed coronavirus:**

- Patient will be placed on “**medical quarantine status**” in a room
  - Whenever possible, the room will have private toilet facilities
  - If a room with private toilet facilities is not available, one bathroom will be identified close to the patient’s room to be used only by patients on quarantine
- Administration must approve of the transfer of the resident to or from a quarantine room if it involves a unit transfer

- Assigned staff working with quarantined patient(s) will remain in that area and limit movement or exposure to other areas of the facility
- Notification will be made to the following individuals of a patient’s medical quarantine status, of any necessary transportation off-site, and of “clearance” off medical quarantine status:
  - RITS Administration (Executive Director, Superintendent, Clinical Director, Principal)
  - RITS Shift Coordinators
  - RITS Unit Managers, Clinical Social Workers, Nurse
  - Consulting Medical Provider (on-site or on-call)
  - Consulting Medical Director
  - Patient’s parent/guardian
  - Court
- Nursing Staff in coordination with the on-site or on-call Medical Provider will take steps to contact the Department of Health hotline to coordinate details of testing as indicated
  - Any patient going off-site for testing purposes will wear a mask and wash hands prior to leaving the facility in the van
  - Any van used to transport patients off-site either for testing or for further medical treatment will be properly cleaned upon return to the facility
- The following guidelines will be in place for any patient on medical quarantine status:
  - Patient will remain in his/her room at all times except
    - If necessary to use the specified toilet facilities and shower
    - If advised by the Department of Health for testing purposes
    - If necessary to be transported to the hospital for worsening medical condition
    - Will wear a mask whenever outside the assigned room
  - Patient will be monitored on a 5-minute watch
  - Patient will be offered water, food, medications, books, and schoolwork
  - Nursing staff will obtain vital signs and conduct a brief exam twice daily
  - Medical providers (on-site or on-call) will review status on a daily basis and provide consultation to Nursing staff as needed regarding need for on-site or off-site medical evaluation
  - Patients will not be able to participate in family visits
  - The Superintendent or his designee will facilitate family phone calls in rooms utilizing state cell phones (that will be sanitized in between uses)
  - Only necessary staff will enter the room with a patient; others may provide resources (food, books, schoolwork, etc.) to the designated staff person for that room
  - Any staff entering the room with the patient will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to include a mask, face shield, gown, and gloves while in the room, then remove them properly and wash hands or utilize hand sanitizer upon leaving the room or post
  - Additional training will be provided to staff on the proper use of PPE as needed
- Nursing Staff in consultation with Medical Provider will determine when a patient is safe to come off medical quarantine status (typically 48 hours after the resolution of all symptoms)
- Unit Staff will maintain a daily log with any relevant activities or updates, as well as complete a “Rhode Island Juvenile Corrections Constant Watch Form” (SRA#4) for any individual on medical quarantine status that will be placed in the unit log book as well as a copy provided to the shift coordinators at the end of each shift

**Management of an outbreak with multiple patients with suspected or confirmed coronavirus**

- Patients on medical quarantine will be cohorted in one mod as above and will not be allowed to circulate in other parts of the facility
- Administration will designate certain staff to care for these individuals only and will limit movement of designated staff between different parts of the facility to decrease the risk of staff spreading the virus
- Consideration of staffing third shift nursing may be necessary for caring for a group of ill patients
- Staff working with the patients in quarantine should be monitored for fever and cough. Those with temperatures or symptoms should be sent home to recover.

### **Overall Management**

- **All related policies, procedures, and memos will be reviewed on a minimum weekly basis by the RITS Administration, Consulting Medical Providers, and Nursing Staff** – it is likely that as the situation continues to evolve, changes will need to be made to policy and procedure and they will be communicated accordingly