RESIDENT ASSESSMENT FOR WEARING OF FACE MASK DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

POLICY
During the COVID-19 pandemic it is recommended that a resident protect him/herself by covering his/her mouth and nose with either a tissue or wearing of a cloth/non-medical face mask, if able to tolerate, when staff are in the room.

A resident should use a medical face mask if he/she is a known or suspected COVID-19 case.

CDC guidelines should be followed when identifying type of mask to be worn.

Cloth face coverings should not be used for anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

PROCEDURE
1. The resident should be identified as either COVID-19 negative or a known/suspected COVID-19 case when deciding the type of mask.
2. Resident assessment should include with documentation in the nurses’ notes:
   a. Respiratory status to identify shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing
   b. Level of consciousness
   c. Ability to remove mask without staff assistance
   d. Level of understanding of importance/need to wear mask
   e. Ability to follow directions (e.g. dementia)
3. Residents with cognitive impairment (e.g. dementia/Alzheimer’s) should be monitored for safety while wearing a mask:
   a. Chewing on mask
   b. Swallowing of mask piece(s)
4. Staff to attempt to keep routines and environment as normal as possible by encouraging resident to wear a mask, if tolerated, social distance when possible, and frequent performance of hand hygiene.
5. The cloth mask should be changed and/or laundered daily or when soiled.
6. The resident’s care plan should be updated with:
   a. COVID-19 status
   b. Type of mask
   c. Level of understanding with ability to follow directions
   d. Resident’s right to refuse

Established: ________________________________

Reviewed and revised: __________________________