

AFFILIATED HOME CARE OF PUTNAM, INC.

POLICY: SCREENING PROTOCOLS

PURPOSE: Educate & Promote the Health and Safety of its Patients and Staff

DATE REVIEWED: 3/16/20

Visitor Restrictions in Place

Affiliated Home Care of Putnam has a comprehensive plan in place to protect the health of everyone who receives home care or provides home care. Using an abundance of caution, all home care workers are required to self-evaluate for signs of respiratory illness and exposure to COVID-19. This protocol will be in place until further notice.

Any home care worker exhibiting flu like symptoms may not enter Affiliated Home Care of Putnam's offices at 4 Marina Drive, suite k1, Mahopac, NY 10541.

Any home care worker exhibiting flu like symptoms or symptoms of COVID-19 may not continue to provide home care services. Any home care worker exhibiting flu like symptoms must report this information to the Agency and must visit the nearest Urgent Care facility.

Any home care worker who exhibits flu like symptoms may not return to home care until they provide written clearance from their health care provider. The aide's patient and/or family will also be notified of the possible exposure. The corresponding MLTC facility will also be notified.

As of this date, Affiliated is unaware of any COVID-19 positive patients or home care workers.

Know the symptoms

COVID-19 causes flu and cold-like symptoms, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The symptoms usually appear 2 to 14 days after being exposed to the virus.

Understand the risk

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the virus a serious public health threat. For the general public, the immediate health risk from the coronavirus currently is low.

- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated though still relatively low risk of exposure.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected [international locations](#) where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected [international locations](#) where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.

Get a Flu Shot if you Haven't Already

Based on current infection rates, the flu is much more common than the coronavirus.

While there currently is no vaccine to prevent the coronavirus, you are still advised to get a flu shot. The flu vaccine won't protect you from the coronavirus, but it could prevent you from getting both viruses at once.

How it spreads

The coronavirus spreads through respiratory droplets from coughs or sneezes. These droplets fall to surrounding surfaces, and when touched, end up on your hands. The virus then enters the body when you touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Take precautions against infection

- Keep your hands clean by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol as often as necessary and prior to arriving at the patient's home AND after arrival.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth throughout the day and particularly while in the patient's home
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissues or your arm/sleeve and dispose of tissues in the trash
- Avoid people who are sick
- Avoid sharing items like dishes and bedding and keep surfaces clean with disinfecting wipes

What to do if you think you are infected

Please stay at home and separate yourself from other people. Treat your symptoms with Tylenol, aspirin, or over the counter cough medications. Report your symptoms to the Agency and visit Urgent Care or your health care provider as soon as possible.

Monitoring Protocols

Affiliated Home Care will monitor the outcome of all aides who were exposed or potentially exposed to virus. Monitoring will continue daily until the threat has been alleviated.

Contingency Plan

If Affiliated's staffing should become affected by the COVID-19 virus, the Agency will coordinate a back-up aide or in the event a back-up aide is unavailable, the MLTC will be notified so that they may reach out to other contracted LHCSA for back up.

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