

## **NSS Respite Care Infection Control Practice** **Effective: July 28/2020**

- 1) **CLOTHES:** “Street clothes” are to be worn to and from work. Nurses should change into their Work Clothes upon arrival at the client home. Work clothes are to be washed in between shifts even when working with the same client. BCCDC Tips: Use hot water >60c and dryer on high if possible. Ironing also kills viruses and bacteria due to the extreme heat.
- 2) **INITIAL HAND WASHING: IMMEDIATELY** upon entering a client home, staff must wash their hands with soap and water for minimum 20 seconds.  
**Routine Hand Hygiene:** Appropriate hand hygiene is expected throughout your shift, prior to procedures, after potentially contaminating procedures, whenever removing gloves, whenever hands are visibly soiled, etc. If using alcohol-based hand rub, sufficient amount to wet all hand surfaces should be used, and hands rubbed until dry(~15sec)
- 3) **Masks: a cloth or standard surgical type mask is to be worn throughout your shift (Whenever within 2m of client or household members).** Due to supply shortages, BCCDC currently recommends masks may be worn for up to 8hr provided they stay clean/dry. (May be removed for meals etc... if able to create min 2m distancing from client and family members). If using a washable mask, these should be washed daily in hot water(>60c) and dried in the dryer on high heat for min 20mins. Or ironed if not dried in dryer.
- 4) **GLOVES:** Gloves must be worn during all care where contact with blood and/or bodily fluids is likely. Diaper changes, airway care, suctioning, dressing changes, etc.... If families do not have gloves encourage them to order from the at home program. If gloves are not on their order list, contact your supervisor/manager to assist with having them added, or supplied.
- 5) **EYE PROTECTION:** Eye protection must be worn during any procedures where there is risk of splashing or spraying of bodily fluids or secretions. Ex. Trach suctioning, trach dressing changes, nebulized meds.
- 6) **HIGH TOUCH SURFACES:** High touch surfaces should be cleaned each shift with disinfectant wipes or diluted bleach: water solution. (see BCCDC guide attached) Counters, knobs, equipment, switches, use your imagination. Talk to your families about cleaning toys, soothers, and other objects that the client touches and/or may put in their mouth. Note there are different concentrations and processes. (See Appendix 1 below)

### **IF THE CLIENT IS ILL WITH COUGH, FEVER, OR RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS:**

- 1) If a client becomes ill with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the family must notify their supervisor or the supervisor on call prior to the next scheduled shift. They must also complete the COVID-19 self-assessment tool; Nursing Supervisors can assist with this, and follow the appropriate guidance regarding testing etc.
- 2) Nursing service may need to be suspended until appropriate follow-up measures can be taken ie testing, obtaining results, supplying the home with advanced PPE supplies prior to nurses entering the home, etc... Each case is currently being managed one at a time in order to address each client’s unique medical needs.
- 3) We have outbreak kits in the event of a client testing positive, which would also require N95 fit testing of staff in homes with AGMP, which is currently in progress now that we have access to masks.

We know these changes may prove challenging, but we all need to do our part to protect each other!

Thank you for keeping our clients, their families, and each other safe. If you have questions please feel free to contact me or your supervisors.

<b><i>Recommended bleach, water ratios, and cleaning times needed for COVID-19 disinfecting</i></b>	<b>High touch and heavily soiled areas</b> (appropriate for households with illness)	<b>All other surfaces</b>	<b>Food contact surfaces</b>
<b>Example areas and surfaces</b>	Toilets, light switches, door knobs, cell phone, TV remotes, bathroom faucets	Tables, counters, floors, chairs, cribs	Any surface or equipment that contacts food
<b>Bleach concentration in ppm</b> (refers to the % ratio of bleach to water)  OR 1 part bleach diluted in ## parts of water	1000ppm 0.1% (1:49)	500ppm 0.05% (1:99)	100ppm 0.01% (1:499)
<b>Time to leave wet, rinsing and drying</b>	Allow 1 minute then rinse with clean water	Allow 5 minutes, no rinse required, let air dry	Allow to air dry, no rinse required
<b>Frequency if everyone in household is well</b>	Once every few days	Once per week	After each use
<b>Frequency if someone in household has COVID-19 or symptoms of illness</b>	Twice per day	Once per day	After each use