

Influenza Outbreak Control Checklist

- Institute standard hand washing and droplet precaution measures (see Healthy Hands Campaign sidebar)
- Continue to actively monitor residents and staff for illness (refer to signs and symptoms tool)
- Re-offer vaccination to any staff or residents not yet vaccinated
- Keep residents with confirmed and suspected influenza together and away from other residents
- Restrict staff movements among units and floors
- Educate residents on hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- Notify your state Department of Health
- Notify family members and receiving facilities of the outbreak (see sample letterhead and sample call script for families)
- Ensure that resident rooms and common areas are cleaned more frequently
- Ensure that adequate supplies of masks, gloves, and gowns are available
- Ask visitors to wear masks and gloves
- Consider visitor restrictions and keep local media informed

Healthy Hands Campaign

Get residents involved in helping to boost hand washing frequency and cut down on transmission of the flu virus in your facility. Here's a program that one LTCF implemented and you may want to try also:

- Several residents were appointed to act as Volunteer Deputy Monitors (VDMs) and given "sheriff" badges to identify their role
- VDMs were posted where they usually spent time near the various entrances and elsewhere inside the facility
- VDMs were asked to monitor and encourage staff and visitors to clean hands at sanitizing dispensers as they entered and moved around the building
- Residents enjoyed playing a role in helping to prevent flu from spreading throughout the facility

For more detailed guidelines on managing an influenza outbreak, the CDC website has extensive information at: www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/index.htm.