COVID-19 In Nursing Homes: The View from the Trenches

May 8, 2020

Richard Feifer, MD, MPH, FACP
Chief Medical Officer
Genesis HealthCare
How Nursing Home COVID-19 Outbreaks Happen

### Virus Entry
1. Visitors
2. New admissions
3. Outside medical appointments
4. Staff

### Virus Spread
1. Contaminated surfaces/objects
2. Patient to patient
3. Patient-to-staff-to-patient

### MITIGATION STRATEGIES
- Restricted visitation
- Screening, testing, and quarantine
- Masks, cohorting, & cleaning
- Screening, testing, hygiene, & masks
- Environmental services
- Room isolation, masks
- Gowns
6 Observations

1. Case Fatality Rate in nursing homes approaches 20%
2. More than half of infected/contagious patients are asymptomatic
3. High risk of outbreaks, despite mitigation strategies
4. Outbreaks can still happen despite outstanding infection control
5. Lack of broad access to accurate, fast testing is costing lives
6. Greatest risk is for debilitated patients and those with dementia
7 Policy Considerations

1. PPE
2. Testing prioritization
3. CARES Act and financial support
4. Quality improvement and litigation
5. Collaboration across the healthcare industry
6. Patchwork of state regulations and support
7. Federal, state, & local reporting