

Preparing and Protecting: COVID-19

Centurion is working with local correctional and health departments in all the states and counties we serve to ensure our staff are prepared to aggressively identify, isolate, treat and manage COVID-19 during this pandemic in order to protect incarcerated persons and facility staff and the community.

SCREENING

- Centurion has trained our staff to detect signs and symptoms of the virus. Based on the guidance of leading experts, including the CDC, we have developed screening tools to identify potentially infectious individuals before they enter the facility.
- All new admissions to a facility are evaluated using screening or testing tools, anyone identified as potentially infectious is protected and provided care.
- Because persons with the virus can be without symptoms, Centurion also initiates a quarantine period for all other new admissions and provides screening at least twice daily with testing as needed.
- A treatment plan is implemented for each person with COVID infection according to the latest guidelines including coordination with local treatment centers as necessary.

SANITATION AND PREVENTION

- Recognizing the close living quarters and large populations in a correctional facility, attention to sanitation, social distancing, and the use of movement restrictions and quarantine is encouraged.
- All Centurion employees are to wear facial coverings in facilities and don personal protective equipment for delivery of patient care.
- Patients are educated on signs and symptoms of COVID infection and preventive efforts such as washing hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, covering mouths when sneezing or coughing, avoiding the touch of face, alerting someone immediately if they have any symptoms, and wearing face coverings where required.
- Appropriate signage provided to facilities, as reminders for mitigation and COVID symptoms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Centurion has provided recommended protocols for the mitigation of COVID-19 to our correctional partners including information on:

- Screening all persons entering facilities at each shift to include temperature checks and symptom screening and testing as indicated.
- Identifying proper isolation areas for symptomatic persons and quarantine for those potentially exposed while minimizing restrictive conditions.
- Minimizing transfers and movements of incarcerated persons and providing screening for all persons transferred or released.
- Elimination of co-pays or other potential barriers for persons seeking medical attention related to the virus.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment for staff with direct contact with patients including medical, mental health, dental and security.
- Limitation of group movements and large gatherings and limiting outside persons by using video or telephonic communication rather than in-person visitations. This includes expansion of telemedicine.
- Providing adequate access to hygiene products and review inventory of supplies and medications which might be in short supply.
- Reviewing and supporting alternatives to incarceration for those most vulnerable to complications for viral infection and depopulation as mechanism of control.
- Influenza vaccines offered with encouragement to staff and patients.

SUPPORT FOR OUR STAFF

- Ongoing Town Hall forums for all employees to provide current COVID updates, education, discussion, and open Q&A session.
- Provide self-care information for staff and resources available for them and their families.
- Waived costs for COVID-19 diagnostic and antibody testing, office visits and Telehealth services.
- Instituted 80 hours of Emergency Sick Leave for employees with a COVID-19 diagnosis and for employees under a mandatory quarantine due to a presumptive diagnosis.
- Monitoring and preparing for COVID vaccine education and distribution according to Federal guidelines and CDC recommendations.
- Advanced Paid Days Off to new employees, with no accrued time off, for COVID-19 absences beyond Emergency Sick Leave parameters.
- Extended benefits coverage an additional 30 days to employees choosing to take unpaid personal leaves of absence due COVID-19.
- Intranet Coronavirus/COVID Dashboard with up to date information, guidelines, resources, and links to trusted information sites.
- Implemented specialized internal and external learning and support opportunities for employees needing personal coping support.