Policy

Infection Control, Handwashing, and prevention of Communicable Disease

Blueberry Gardens will practice nationally recognized infection control policies to prevent the spread of infection and disease and will orient and train all staff to adhere to these policies.

1. Handwashing: Staff will wash hands frequently, and specifically: Upon arrival to the facility at start of shift and before leaving facility, before and after administering medications, and after removing gloves, after using the bathroom, before preparing or handling or eating food, before handling dishes, after handling soiled laundry or bedding, after performing household cleaning tasks, after handling garbage, before and after assisting residents with personal hygiene tasks, and after coming into contact with any soiled substances, surfaces, or body fluids. Staff will assist residents to wash their hands after each of these activities as well. When washing hands, a 20 second hot water method at the sink will be used. When hand washing is not possible, an alcohol based sanitizer will be used.
2. Sharps: Staff will dispose of razor blades, syringes, and other sharp items into appropriate sharps container which will be disposed of in a secured sharps receptacle and delivered to the King County hazardous waste disposal facility bin at the Recycling and disposal station, or the container will be returned to the pharmacy it was purchased from for disposal.

1. PPE: Staff will use all disposable and single-service supplies and equipment (Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves, masks, eye goggles, gowns, face shields) only one time as specified by the manufacturer, unless due to nationwide shortages, and if in effect, staff will use the most appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) conservations strategies available at the time.

1. Body fluid precautions will be observed to protect both residents and staff.
2. Staff will follow the requirements of chapter 49.17 RCW, Washington State Industrial Safety and Health Act to protect the health and safety of each resident and employee
3. Staff will be vigorously encouraged to practice good self care, including annual flu-shots. Proper technique for coughing into elbow crook will be emphasized and taught and staff will be instructed to remain home from work if ill with a confirmed or suspected infectious disease or illness. During outbreaks of Flu or Pandemics, all staff will mask during all work hours if appropriate PPE available to be able to do so.
4. If the adult family home staff suspects anyone working or living in the home may have a communicable disease, provider will be notified and nationally recognized infection control measures will be implemented, including:
* Hand washing and body fluid precautions
* Infection control standards for contact, droplet and airborn precautions
* Procedures for decontamination of the person and disinfection of equipment and environment.
* Quarantine of contacts (if needed)
* Prophylaxis of exposed individuals as ordered by their physician, if necessary
* Control of vectors of infection
* Seeking medical care for infected or exposed individuals as appropriate
* Notification of public health department and DSHS as required
1. All staff will be tested for TB prior to employment at Blueberry Gardens.
2. Blueberry Gardens has an Isolation Protocol, which will be used to isolate any resident with a confirmed or suspected Flu, contagious disease, or during times of pandemic. See “Isolation Protocol”.

During Times of Pandemic, We will follow DSHS, CDC, DOH and governmental mandates regarding:

* + Visitation and outings
	+ Isolation, testing, and separation of residents
	+ Surveillance of staff, visitors and residents
	+ Reporting of symptoms and confirmed illness or deaths