

Policy:

To establish clear guidelines for preventing and managing major disease outbreaks, including COVID-19, to safeguard the health and well-being of our individuals supported and staff. This policy applies to all employees, contractors, individuals supported, host homes, and Palmers Home Care LLC visitors, including in-home service locations day programs, and host home sites.

Preventive Measures:

- **Hygiene Practices:** Regular hand washing, use of hand sanitizers, and adherence to respiratory hygiene.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Appropriate use of masks, gloves, and other protective gear as required.
- **Environmental Cleaning:** Enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols for all work locations and equipment.
- **Health Screening:** Regular health screenings for symptoms and potential exposure to infectious diseases.
- **Vaccination:** Encourage vaccination against significant diseases, as applicable and medically advised.

Response to Outbreaks:

- **Immediate Action:** Palmers Home Care nursing staff will respond and assess the situation and implement emergency protocols for all individuals supported.
- **Isolation and Quarantine:** Procedures for isolating affected individuals and quarantining those exposed.
- **Contact Tracing:** Efforts to trace and notify individuals who may have been exposed.
- **Communication:** Regular updates to staff, individuals supported, and families about the situation and measures being taken.

Staff Training and Support:

- **Training Programs:** Offer training on pandemic preparedness, PPE use, and infection control measures.
- **Mental Health Support:** Access to employee assistance support services for staff dealing with the stresses of a pandemic.

Support for Individuals Supported:

- **Service Adaptation:** Modifying care plans as needed to reduce exposure risk while ensuring continuity of care.
- **Family Engagement:** Keeping families informed and involved in care decisions during a pandemic.

Regulatory Compliance and Guidelines:

- **Compliance with Health Authorities:** Palmers Home Care LLC will follow all guidelines issued by the CDC, Missouri Department of Mental Health, and any other applicable government agency or health authority. Ensuring adherence to local, state, and federal health regulations and guidelines related to pandemic response.
- **Review and Update:**
Regularly review and update the policy based on evolving best practices and procedures from health authorities.

Conclusion:

This policy is designed to be a living document, adaptable to changing circumstances and evolving knowledge about disease prevention and control. Our individuals' and staff's health and safety are of utmost priority, and Palmers Home Care LLC is committed to providing a safe and caring environment during challenging times.