

# COVID-19 Response: Infection Prevention Key Steps

There is no treatment or vaccine for COVID-19, also known as a novel coronavirus. Therefore, effective prevention and containment through infection prevention best practices is critical to slowing and preventing its spread.

## Key Steps:

Stay informed of the latest guidance from CDC (Centers of Disease Control) and public health authorities on meeting effective infection control standards:

- ✓ Adequately screen and monitor patients and staff for suspect and new COVID-19 cases.
- ✓ Employ appropriate patient triage, placement and discharge for suspect and new COVID-19 cases—and educate clinical teams on these guidelines and protocols.
- ✓ Educate and retrain clinicians about appropriate protective infection control procedures.
- ✓ Promote proper use of PPE and supplies, including storage, appropriate usage, cleaning, and disposal, as well as adherence to everyday infection control practices like proper hand hygiene.
- ✓ Continue the use of existing simple source control measures for influenza, including Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette.

Communicate and coordinate efforts with those who oversee the facility's Emergency Preparedness Plan.

- ✓ Put measures in place to identify patients with symptoms prior to arrival, upon arrival, and during visits to ensure rapid safe triage and placement.
- ✓ Plan how your facility will accommodate high patient volumes, including the management of drug and equipment storage and supply chains, which have a direct impact on infection control efforts.

Work with local and state public health authorities to coordinate testing of suspect COVID-19 cases through your state public health labs and/or commercial labs, as they become available.

- ✓ Remain informed of local and state reporting guidelines as they continue to evolve.

The demands of the COVID-19 virus have shifted facility resources to address preparation and responses to the pandemic. Q-Centrix is available to offer expert assistance and added support so that your team can focus their full attention on infection prevention.

Contact Q-Centrix at [info@q-centrix.com](mailto:info@q-centrix.com).

