



## **CONTAINMENT & SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR HOME VISITS**

**POLICY:** During the COVID-19 Pandemic face- to- face contact among staff, persons served, and collateral contacts will occur when determined to be necessary by the Program Director.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to outline the steps to be taken during home visits to minimize the risk of contagion by both persons served and staff.

### **PROCEDURE: Nursing Visits**

1. Call the person served before the visit to determine the status of the following:
  - a. Does the person have a cough, fever, difficulty breathing, diarrhea?
  - b. Is anyone else in your household sick?
  - c. Have you been exposed to someone with a confirmed COVID-19 infection OR person under investigation for COVID-19
2. If you cannot reach the person before the home visit, ask the above questions as soon as you arrive and be sure to maintain at least 6 feet distance and have your N-95 securely fitted.
3. If you have long hair it should be pulled back and secured with a clip. Also, you should not wear jewelry.
4. Prior to entering the home in your car do the following:
  - a. Tie back long hair if applicable
  - b. Remove jewelry
  - c. Consider wearing glasses instead of contact lenses
  - d. Use Hand sanitizer (apply 1-2 pumps to palms of hand and for 15 seconds rub front, back, in between fingers and nail bed) until dry
5. Upon entering the home do the following:
  - a. Use hand sanitizer and place a surgical mask on a flat surface 6 feet away from the person served
  - b. Ask the person served to wear the surgical mask
  - c. Conduct screening questions
6. If the persons served answers all the screening questions in the negative (no cough, no household member sick, no diarrhea, etc.) you can proceed with the visit. As noted above the N-95 mask, booties, eye protection must be worn, and you should use hand sanitizer to clean your hands.
7. If the nursing visit is for an IM injection or blood draw, and the person served answers yes to any of the above questions the nurse should use their medical judgement in consultation with Bridgeway's Medical Director and/or Medical APN to determine if the visit should proceed.
8. Nurses must wear a N-95 mask, eye protection and gloves for all persons served contact since they will be providing direct care such as taking a blood pressure, drawing blood, IM injections or other procedures that require close bodily contact.
9. During these close bodily procedures—IM medications, blood pressure reading, or blood draw-- persons served must wear a surgical mask. As noted in 5-a do not hand

the person served the mask directly-- have the person served move away and put the mask on a table or similar object and then distance yourself at least 6 feet while the person is donning the mask.

10. Prior to performing any procedures with person served do the following:
  - a. Use hand sanitizer
  - b. Place protective glasses, goggles, or protective shield
  - c. Use hand sanitizer
  - d. Place non-sterile gloves on
  - e. Ask person served to turn head opposite direction from where you will be performing a procedure
  - f. Perform vital signs, lab draw, IM injections and any other assessment needed
  - g. Once all procedures are completed remove gloves
  - h. Use hand sanitizer and remove protective glasses, shield, or goggles
11. Upon exiting home do the following:
  - a. Tell person served they can dispose of the mask
12. Once back in your vehicle:
  - a. Use hand sanitizer
  - b. Remove the N95 using proper technique and place it in a paper bag for next use

Carefully follow the policy and procedures for the proper usage of the N-95 mask.

13. When you arrive home, you should remove your work shoes and sanitize your hands prior to entering. Take off your work clothes (scrubs), shower, and put on a clean set of clothes. Your work clothes should be washed in hot water.

#### **PROCEDURES: Non-nursing visits**

1. Call the person served before the visit to determine the status of the following:
  - a. Does the person have a cough, fever, difficulty breathing, diarrhea?
  - b. Is anyone else in your household sick?
  - c. Have you had contact with anyone who is sick either inside or outside of the house?
  - d. Have you been exposed to someone with a confirmed COVID-19 infection OR person under investigation for COVID-19?
2. If you cannot reach the person before the home visit, ask the above questions as soon as you arrive and be sure to maintain at least 6 feet distance and have your N-95 mask on.
3. If the persons served answers all of the questions in the negative (no cough, no household member sick, diarrhea, etc) you can proceed with the visit. **HOWEVER, you must properly put on a N-95 mask and clean your hands with a hand sanitizer** (see policy and procedure for proper usage of N-95 masks).
4. Prior to entering the home in your car do the following:
  - a. Tie back long hair if applicable
  - b. Remove jewelry
  - c. Consider wearing glasses instead of contact lenses

- d. Use Hand sanitizer (apply 1-2 pumps to palms of hand and for 15 seconds rub front, back, in between fingers and nail bed) until dry
5. Upon entering the home do the following:
  - a. If person served presents with respiratory symptoms, use hand sanitizer and place a surgical mask on a flat surface 6 feet away from the individual
  - b. Ask person served to put on mask
  - c. Place non-sterile gloves on
  - d. Conduct your visit
6. Upon exiting the home do the following:
  - a. Tell individual to dispose of the mask
7. Once back in your vehicle:
  - a. Use hand sanitizer
  - b. Remove the N95 mask using the proper technique and place it in a paper bag for next use
8. If the person answers yes to any of the above questions the visit should not take place. However, if you are concerned about the person's mental or physical health you should consult with your team leader. (*The team leader may then consult with the Director, Medical Director, and/or Medical APN*). The person served should be asked if they have contacted their medical provider. If not, strongly encourage the individual to contact their medical provider as soon as possible.
9. If the 6-foot distance cannot consistently be maintained, ask the person served to put on a surgical mask. As noted in 5-a do not hand the person served the mask directly-- have the person served move away and put the mask on a table or similar object and then distance yourself at least 6 feet while the person is donning the mask.
10. During your visit ALWAYS maintain a distance of 6 feet.
11. Following your visit, you should again use hand sanitizer.
12. On days when home visits or office visits occur - when returning home, remove your work shoes and sanitize your hands prior to entering. It is recommended to wash work clothes and change into clean clothes,

Attribution:

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Inc. 615 N. Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
| 908-355-7886 | [www.bridgewayrehab.org](http://www.bridgewayrehab.org)