



Infection Prevention and Control: Regulations & Requirements



Nursing homes are required by federal and state laws to prevent and control infections. Federal law states that nursing homes who receive federal funds:

“must establish and maintain an infection and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections.”

These requirements include:

Establish and review (at least annually) an infection prevention and control program that at minimum:

- Has a system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections and communicable diseases for **all** residents, staff, volunteers, visitors and other individuals who provide services.
- Includes a program that promotes appropriate antibiotic use that improves resident outcomes & reduces resistance to antibiotics by germs.
- A process in place to record and correct any incidents related to infection prevention and control.
- Is written with standards, policies, and procedures and must include:
 - a system to identify diseases and infections *before* they spread
 - precautions to be followed to prevent spread
 - when and how to isolate residents in the ***least restrictive manner possible***
 - When employees are prohibited from direct contact with residents or their food if they are sick
 - Hand hygiene to be followed by staff who provide direct care to residents
 - A method to handle, store, process, and transport linens (bedding, towels etc.) to prevent the spread of infection

Want to know more? Contact your [nursing home advocate](#) or send a message to geriatric@unthsc.edu

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