



Residential Care and Assisted Living Newsletter

October 2010

Gold Awards—No Deficiencies

- Meyer Manor II—Meridian
- The Princess—Idaho Falls

Silver Awards—Three or Fewer Non-Core Deficiencies

- Country Living Retirement Home—Buhl
- Rosetta Assisted Living, Eastridge—Twin Falls
- Rosetta Assisted Living, Hiland—Burley
- Living Springs Residential Care—Lewiston
- Ashley Manor Mountain Home—Mountain Home
- Ashley Manor 8th Street—Mountain Home

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Flu and the Impact on Residents

Influenza, commonly referred to as the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a virus. The most common form is called seasonal flu and is often acquired during the late fall through early spring. The flu is often spread from personal contact with another person (i.e. sneezing or coughing). It can also be spread by touching a surface where the virus lives and then touching your mouth, eyes, or nose.

Most people who get influenza will recover in a few days to 2 weeks, but some people will develop complications (i.e., pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus, or ear infections). Individuals who are over the age of 65 or who have chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes, or asthma are at a higher risk for developing serious flu-related complications. During a regular flu season, about 90 percent of deaths occur in people 65 years and older.

How Can Facilities Help Residents?

- If possible, have staff and residents get a yearly flu vaccine to help limit their possibility of becoming ill with the flu.
- Put in place proper infection controls to limit the spread of the flu virus between residents and staff. For example, encourage staff and residents to:
 - * Cough or sneeze into a tissue or in the crook of their arm to reduce the spreading of droplets from the nose and/or mouth.
 - * Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth as germs can be easily spread through this type of contact.
 - * Wash their hands with warm water and soap frequently throughout the day.

For more information about the flu, go to the Centers for Disease Control Web site (click on Diseases and Conditions > Flu (Influenza)) or the WebMD Web site (click on Cold and Flu Health Center > Cold Guide).

A Note From the Criminal History Unit

Health & Welfare (H&W) criminal history background checks are transferable from one agency to another if the background check was completed within the past three years. It's always the agencies choice to accept the previous Health & Welfare background check or have the individual start with an entirely new one.

If an individual is hired and states that a Health & Welfare criminal history background check was done previously, take the following steps to keep your agency in compliance with the requirements for H&W background checks and to ensure accuracy:

Note: Never accept the individual giving you a copy of their previous clearance letter.

- Contact the Health & Welfare Criminal History Unit by e-mail at crimhist@dhw.idaho.gov with a brief note, "Please transfer Mary Applicant DOB XX/XX/XXXX to our agency # 1234." The Criminal History Unit will check the records and write back to your agency. If the individual's background check is in good standing and was cleared within the last three years, the Criminal History Unit will add your agency ID# to the individual's records that allows you to print out a clearance letter for your records. If the individuals background check is older than 3 years or is no longer in good standing, the Criminal History Unit will write back with that information and advise you that they are required to conduct the entire H&W background check.
- Call the H&W Criminal History Unit in the Boise area at (208) 332-7990 or toll free at (800) 340-1246 and ask for the transfer.

If your agency chooses to accept the previous H&W background check, your agency must then conduct the \$10 Idaho State Police records check. Instructions for this process are on the home page of the H&W Criminal History Web site.

Email Updates

If you would like email updates about rule changes, proposed rule changes, announcements, updated FAQs, and newsletters, please email us at ALC@dhw.idaho.gov