



## **EBOLA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG TERM CARE INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS**

- Participate, if requested, with local health and government authorities in response planning for an Ebola incident in your area. Planning for an Ebola incident should be done in concert with emergency managers and partner agencies. If you don't have a relationship with your local health department, start one!
- Maintain situational awareness on Ebola by monitoring the following website:  
CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/> , HHS website <http://www.hrsa.gov/ebola/> ,  
and the CT DPH website: <http://www.ct.gov/dph>
- Educate your staff on the sources of Ebola exposure, symptoms and appropriate precautions. Reinforce that the risk of exposure in long term care is low. The CDC guidelines on PPE for Ebola can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>. Take this opportunity to ensure that the PPE used for routine precautions includes gowns impervious to fluids.
- This is a great opportunity to re- train staff on how to use personal protective equipment-- the optimal protective equipment, when and how they must use it, and how to dispose of the equipment. Even though they will never be on the front lines of caring for Ebola, the principles of caring for their residents/patients on precautions are the same for caring an Ebola case.
- Re-emphasize the importance of hand and respiratory hygiene that is the foundation for preventing the spread of any type of infection.
- Teach your staff on the importance of *Hands off the T Zone* which are entry points to the body for germs to enter.



- Review and if needed, update your Infection Prevention Policies and Exposure Control Plans.
- Educate staff on the importance of notifying administration of travel plans to the Ebola affected countries in West Africa or receiving visitors from affected areas. Work with your local health department and facility/corporate Human Resources on a plan to responsibly handle this.
- Use the media attention on Ebola as an opportunity to teach your staff on the importance of using the principles of infection prevention at all times to help protect against exposure to any type of infection.