SENTRICS® BEST PRACTICE SERIES

5 TOOLS TO MANAGE CONTAGIONS WITH CONFIDENCE

No one knows what the pandemic will bring next. Leading senior living communities aren't waiting for the next wave. They are putting tools in place now to make it easier to minimize the impact of the next contagion, whether it's a new COVID strain or something we've never faced before.

Those tools all rely on sophisticated Real Time Location Systems (RTLS) technology often built into new eCall and Life Safety solutions. RTLS technology leverages receivers, also referred to as locators or access points, to receive wireless signals from "tags" attached to a person or piece of equipment within the care center environment. The RTLS system collects data as it flows in, categorizes it, and then makes it visible on a computer software system.

Modern RTLS creates an intelligent web of information, generating data and insights that providers can leverage to make better, more informed decisions regarding the delivery of care.

While this technology can be used for a variety of purposes, it is especially useful when communities need to:

1. Identify people at risk
2. Put consistent protocols in place
3. Manage isolation with ease
4. Prevent the spread of infection
5. Standardize reporting

1. Identify People at Risk Quickly

New technology makes contact tracing more effective, more efficient and automatic. Powerful software and advanced technologies make it easier to identify at-risk residents. RTLS-enabled eCall solutions makes it possible to trace the interactions of specific residents and staff members with a touch of a few buttons. To complete a quick search you:

- Define the person or person(s) to trace
- Define the timeframe and duration (e.g., one day or two weeks)
- Define contact level and duration of contact

By overlapping location, interactions, and duration, you can see a web of contacts and pinpoint the most vulnerable residents and team members quickly. With this method, you no longer have to rely on the memory of residents or staff to identify quickly people exposed to an infection.

2. Put Consistent Protocols in Place

As powerful as contact tracing is, it's just the beginning of your processes. Automating the protocol management for each case helps ensure consistency and thoroughness with every sick resident every time. It provides a checklist of the health and safety protocols that must be followed with each resident. It gives you fingertip access to reports for your community, your region or your entire corporation. Additionally, by automating case

management protocols, you and your caregivers have visibility over:

- The number of people impacted by a disease at any given time
- Repeatable protocols that guide your caregivers from talking to a resident about a positive test, to isolation procedures to help ensure consistent processes
- Fingertip access to details about the length of time an individual has been isolated as well as expected release date so you can plan accordingly
- Instant access to repeatable reports about the status of your cases

3. Manage Isolation with Ease

RTLS-enabled eCall systems make it easier to keep isolated residents in their confined spaces and others out. Using RTLS technology, a Nursing Director can geofence a room with a click of a button. When the perimeter is broken, an alert goes out to the nearest caregiver. At the same time, caregivers approaching the room receive a notification of the appropriate PPE to use with the resident. Isolation management provides:

- One-click perimeter setting
- Instant visibility on anyone who enters or exits a geofenced room
- PPE instructions to a caregiver putting themselves at risk to help a resident

4. Prevent the Spread of Infection

A key part of preventing the spread of any infection is social distancing, which is much easier with RTLS. Rather than forcing your staff to count people in a room, you can use technology to let you know when a room occupancy has hit the specified limit. This frees your staff to perform more productive and rewarding activities, while helping them keep residents and each other safe from contagions. With RTLS, you can:

- Define the room occupancy limit for each room
- Send an alert to the caregiver closest to the door when a room is over that limit
- Report room occupancy breaches to help plan for future dining, events, or activities

5. Standardize Reporting

COVID has brought a new level of reporting scrutiny from the federal government to the community you serve. New eCall solutions include more sophisticated reporting. Rows and rows of data have been replaced with dashboard-based graphics that make it easy to report trends and take action. Look for a solution that helps you:

- Collect thousands of data points from several systems to provide a completely integrated view of your community and resident health
- Integrate data about your staff to provide a community outlook
- Compare data across residents, communities, regions and corporate entities to identify trends
- Offer insights, not just data, about the health and wellbeing of residents and staff
- Share information easily with residents, staff, family members, the community and government officials

RTLS Makes Senior Living Communities Healthier

RTLS isn't new. What was once used largely to pinpoint a person's location, now provides a valuble key to identify and help manage the critically ill. It captures the location, time, and duration that someone or something is in a given space, and then uses that data to provide real tools to manage and report on the community's response.

Accomplishing your goals and protecting your communities is almost impossible without the integration of technology. Put simply, automation simplifies and optimizes your community's ability to protect residents and prevent the spread of any disease. This prepares you for both the current crisis as well as any that may arise.

Leverage Ensure360℠ from Sentrics

No one knows what conditions we'll face around the next corner. Everyone needs a more effective way to identify and manage exposed, at-risk residents and staff. RTLS will help you manage them. Ensure360 is a powerful platform that combines RTLS with sophisticated eCall and intelligence to answer who, what, when, where, and why. Armed with these powerful insights, staff can move from reacting to an event to preventing one. The result is improved care, reduced staff burden, and increased family peace of mind.

Find out more today at *sentrics.net/solutions/ensure360/* or call *(888) 988-8210*.

Sources:
[1] CDC. Contact Tracing for Covid-19. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html
[2] BCG. Pros and cons of contact tracing amid COVID-19. https://www.bcg.com/en-us/publications/2020/pros-and-cons-of-contact-tracing-amid-covid-19 and most importantly, improve the quality of care.

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