

CITY OF CHICAGO EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN SENIOR BUILDINGS

During this pandemic, seniors, people with disabilities, and people who are immunocompromised face the highest risk of death if infected. In light of this, Jane Addams Senior Caucus has consulted with public health professionals to make the following recommendations to prevent infection and community spread within Chicago senior buildings.

1. **Trained Healthcare Personnel (ex: Public Health Workers, CNA, Medical Assistant), social workers and service coordinators on site in all senior buildings to monitor temperatures, answer questions, do well being checks and ensure that this vulnerable population is well taken care of.**
 - Trained healthcare personnel, social workers, service coordinators or building staff should screen access to Senior buildings using infrared thermometers and prohibit non-residents with symptoms or fever from accessing senior rooms to ensure that the virus is contained.
 - Trained healthcare personnel, social workers, service coordinators or building staff should screen Perform daily wellness checks on residents to make certain people haven't become ill and support them receiving treatment if they have.
 - Social workers and service coordinators should work with residents to ensure they are getting their daily needs met while in quarantine.

2. **Full Building Staffing, Protective equipment and training for workers and updated cleaning regimen**
 - Buildings should be staffed to levels pre-pandemic with security, maintenance and property management on site.
 - There must be protective equipment, including face masks, gloves, and access to hand hygiene (hand sanitizer or hand washing facilities with soap) given to all essential building personnel who are working on site.
 - There must be proper training for all management and maintenance staff on these protocols.
 - There must be updated cleaning regimens for communal spaces in senior buildings given that Coronavirus can be spread by touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.¹

Senior apartment buildings have plenty of surfaces we touch which we share with our community. They include:

 - Gates
 - Buzzers or doorbells
 - Front door handles
 - Elevator buttons
 - Hand railings in stairwells
 - Mailboxes
 - Laundry machines

All these surfaces should be disinfected 3 times a day with one of the following:

 - A diluted household bleach solutions
 - Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol
 - One of these [EPA-approved disinfectants](#).

3. **Allow homemakers, caregivers and personal aides to enter the building** to serve residents as long as they themselves are not experiencing symptoms and have been screened by health workers.

¹https://www.vitalstrategies.org/covid19-qa/?fbclid=IwAR3cU4G8mIRtG2W17BHUUXjkJCKwfeoBTKKrnAihZpjklfG3smRI_AN3TJI