

# Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance

Best Practices Spotlight

## Life Care: Elevating Infection Prevention Standards for Senior Care in Port Townsend

**Port Townsend, WA** – Life Care Center, a prominent senior care facility nestled in the picturesque town of Port Townsend, is being praised for its exceptional commitment to providing high-quality service to its residents. Situated along the serene Kah Tai Lagoon, Life Care offers a comfortable and tranquil environment for its senior community. With a team of highly trained and compassionate professionals, the facility goes above and beyond to ensure the physical, emotional, and social well-being of every individual under its care.

As the only skilled nursing facility in East Jefferson County, Life Care provides a wide range of services designed to meet the diverse needs of its residents. These services include skilled nursing and long-term care, covering everything from wound care to diabetes management. Moreover, the facility offers inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services, assisting residents in regaining or maintaining their independence.

Amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Life Care places significant importance on infection control and prevention. Angela Cornell, a licensed nurse, and the facility's infection preventionists, swiftly recognized the risks of airborne pathogens within the facility setting. Collaborating with other leaders, Cornell formulated a robust respiratory protection program, incorporating fit testing into the onboarding process for staff. Understanding that a one-size-fits-all approach would not suffice, Cornell worked closely with the facility's leadership to design a program that effectively addressed the unique challenges faced by staff. This systematic approach to infection control through respiratory protection has not only enhanced safety protocols but has also garnered praise for its effectiveness. Other long-term care facilities have taken notice, expressing interest in adopting similar initiatives to elevate their infection control practices.

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In addition to their fit test program, Life Care recognized the importance of each resident having an essential support person and proper protocols in place to allow for visitation during end-of-life circumstances for residents. During the pandemic, when visitation was limited, Life Care made special accommodations for residents on hospice by providing them with a private room. This allowed for private visitation without the need to move residents out of their room during visitations and ensured that other residents would be kept safe.

By continuously striving for excellence and prioritizing the well-being of its residents, Life Care is a true leader in the field of infection prevention in senior care. Through its commitment to providing exceptional care and its holistic approaches to infection control, Life Care stands as a testament to the positive impact that can be achieved when long-term care facilities prioritize both the needs and safety of their residents.