STATEMENT:

Communicable disease outbreaks that impact a Healthcare Facility (HCF) should require Security to activate, adapt and supplement processes and mechanisms in order to continue the provision of a safe care environment. Planning for outbreaks should include identification of essential security services and measures to address shifting demand for security resources.

INTENT:

a. As part of the communicable disease management response, security may be assigned the responsibility for initiating and providing access and egress control measures to augment infection control practices. These can include:
   1) Implementing restricted access procedures, including personal property
   2) Establishing designated staff, visitor and patient entrances
   3) Providing vehicular and pedestrian traffic control
   4) Securing isolation and segregation areas
   5) Identifying and removing unauthorized persons from restricted areas
   6) Screening visitors and enforcement of infection control protocols such as hand sanitizing and wearing and disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE)
   7) Partnering with medical staff if clinical screening is required
   8) Securing staff sleeping areas

b. Security may be assigned responsibility for securing and protecting critical resources including areas, supplies, and pharmaceuticals. Documented access, audit and inventory control processes should be initiated for the supplies and pharmaceuticals in these areas.

c. Relevant training and equipment must be provided to Security as their safety is paramount. Such training can include:
   1) Educating on the risks and protective measures associated with the specific communicable disease
   2) Distributing and using PPE which addresses routes of exposure
   3) Managing patient surge issues including the ‘worried well’
   4) Reporting mechanism and public information protocols for unsafe or hazardous conditions
   5) Importance of current standardized communication, including verbal, written and electronic, to provide to visitors
   6) Alternate care areas or even separate sites may be activated to support patient surge. This may require additional security activities including:
   7) Providing internal security communications
   8) Ensuring appropriate levels of visual monitoring through technology or security personnel or a combination of both
   9) Defining role of security staff in support of patient care
   10) Communicating with law enforcement regarding alternate care locations
   11) Developing traffic flow plans including integration into existing facility plans

REFERENCES:

SEE ALSO:

IAHSS Healthcare Security Industry Guideline 04.03.03, Facility Restricted Access (Emergency Lockdown)
IAHSS Healthcare Security Industry Guideline 05.02, Security Role in Patient Management
IAHSS Healthcare Security Industry Guideline 08.01, Emergency Management – General
IAHSS Healthcare Security Industry Guideline 08.02, Security Role in the Emergency Operations Center (ICS)
IAHSS Security Design Guideline 03, Emergency Management

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