Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Health Facilities Division
Citation

Citation Number: **#8087**			**Date:** **August 25, 2020**
Facility Name: **Solon Nursing Care Center**		**Survey Dates:** **July 27 – August 10, 2020**	
Facility Address/City/State/Zip: **523 East Fifth Street** **Solon, IA 52333**	**HL, VW, TAG**		

Rule or Code Section	Nature of Violation	Class	Fine Amount	Correction date
58.10(8)	**481—58.10(135C) General policies.** **58.10(8)** Infection control program. Each facility shall have a written and implemented infection control and exposure control program with policies and procedures based on the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (I, II, III) **DESRICPTION:** Based on observation, record review, family and staff interviews, the facility failed to implement and monitor an effective screening process for staff to prevent a Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak affecting 36 of 70 residents and failed to provide staff education. The facility reported a census of 70 residents. Findings include: 1. A review of the facility Screening Forms revealed no consistency with completion of the Screening Form; as evidenced by the following: a. The week of 7/21/20 through 7/28/20: 6 staff came in to work with symptoms and instructed to continue to work on positive COVID Unit with no testing completed to determine if they were COVID positive and not sent home.	**Class I**	**$7,750** **Held In Suspension**	

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	b. No official screener consistently in place to monitor those coming through the front entrance when employees enter. c. On 7/27/20, the Surveyor entered at 9:28 a.m. greeted by Administrator, Director of Nursing (DON), and Dietary Director. At 10:18 a.m., after prompting by the Surveyor, the DON then screened the surveyor d. On 7/28/20, the surveyor entered the facility and completed the screening form, took her own temperature, however, no verification received from any of the staff on the information provided. 2. Documentation lacked staff education on COVID-19 after April 2020. A review of nine human resources records revealed no documentation of education after April 2020. 3. The facility failed to restrict visitors from entering the facility per CMS guidance. a. One resident's spouse who lived in the independent living apartments was entering. The spouse entered the facility six or seven times in the span of a month. The facility instructed the spouse to call first prior to entering the facility and try to monitor at mealtimes which was usually when the spouse would come to visit b. The family of two other residents were allowed to visit the residents who had not been identified to be in the active phase of dying or receiving hospice services. During an observation on 8/5/20 1:08 p.m., the Administrator showed the signs posted on the			

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	entrance from the independent living apartments to the facility. The door had a push bar and required the person to push a button to deactivate the alarm. On the other side of the door were signs posted on red paper with bold font with instructions that no visitors allowed in the facility (no date posted on the sign). A button to push would deactivate the alarm in order to enter the facility. She also reported a visitor who lived at the independent living apartments knew how to deactivate the alarm and staff would not know he entered the facility until they actually saw him. During an observation on 8/6/20 at 5:27 a.m., the Surveyor entered through a door, which had signs posted "employees only, push button to enter". The Surveyor entered the facility, silenced the alarm, since no staff near the entrance, took own temperature and answered screening questions on the Screening Tool which asked if symptoms of cough, sore throat or new shortness of breath. At 5:42 a.m., Staff U, Registered Nurse (RN), informed the surveyor of the need to have her temperature taken and answer screening questions. During an observation on 8/6/20 at 6:14 a.m., Staff V, agency Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) screened by Staff U, RN who asked if she had any symptoms. Staff V reported she had a cough that she has had for a couple days, not constant, but had allergies. Staff U took Staff V's temperature, which showed no fever at 97.1 degrees Fahrenheit. Staff U instructed her to wait while she talked to the DON. The DON asked Staff V if she had the cough constantly or any contact that was			

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	positive. Staff V reported she had been working the COVID unit and that she had a history of allergies. The DON then left but did not tell Staff V to go home. At 6:21 a.m., Staff U asked Staff V what the DON said. Staff V reported he never responded. Staff U then instructed Staff V that she would be alright to work. Staff V proceeded to don mask, face shield and isolation gown before going out to the hallway where resident rooms were located. During an observation on 8/6/20 at 12:15 p.m., Staff V, CNA wore a mask, face shield, isolation gown, stood outside a room in the 200 hallway (one of the units designated for residents who tested positive for COVID-19). She reported she had not had any problems with coughing since she punched in this morning. No coughing noted during this observation. During an observation on 8/6/20 from 1:50 p.m. through 2:19 p.m., Staff P, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) utilized the original screening form utilized when the survey began on 7/27/20 on 12 employees. The form did not address other symptoms such as diarrhea, headache, or if they had been exposed to anyone that tested positive for COVID-19. In an interview on 7/27/20 at 2:23 p.m., Staff A, CNA, reported the following: a. The screening process is not consistent, staff are expected to take their own temperature and answer the questions, however, there are people not doing this and nothing is done about it. Approximately 75% of the staff will forget to complete the screening process.			

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	b. There are several people that work here that have tested positive and are allowed to work. There is one CNA tested positive, she had a fever, cough, and sore throat, and never been quarantined, and they told her she could work with the residents who have already tested positive. c. On Friday (7/24/20), Staff A had been vomiting, had a fever of 100.9 then they took it again 98.9 then 100.1. She also had a cough and sore throat, very dizzy and not sent home. The symptoms started when she first arrived to work, she worked the entire shift and was not tested until 7/27/20. She also reported all employees who have symptoms are supposed to get tested here. During an interview on 7/27/20 at 5:07 p.m., Staff B, RN, reported the following: a. Employees are expected to take their own temperature and answer the screening questions. Usually a nurse is supposed to be there. b. When asked if the screening completed consistently, she reported she is not always good about signing out and checking her temperature before she leaves for the day. In an interview on 7/28/20 at 7:38 a.m., Staff C, RN, reported the following: a. Employees are supposed to check their own temperature and answer the questionnaire when they enter and when they leave for the day. b. The facility protocol is that if an employee has tested positive for COVID and asymptomatic, they can continue to work on the 2 COVID units. She also			

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	reported if an employee had any symptoms, they would need to stay home for 14 days. During an interview on 7/28/20 at 7:54 a.m., Staff D, CNA, reported when employees start their shift, they are to take their own temperature and answer four questions. If anyone answers yes to any of the questions, they will be asked to go home but before going home, the DON would need to do the COVID-19 test out in the parking lot. No one sits at the table (where the screening is completed by employees), but at shift change there is always a nurse around. In an interview on 7/28/20 at 11:30 a.m., Staff E, Dietary Aide, reported on 7/21/20 and 7/22/20 she had marked the screening tool as yes for cough and sore throat, and not sent home, she worked for the next few days afterward. She had never had been told to stay home and did not know what symptoms she should have to stay home. During an interview on 7/28/20 3:41 p.m., Staff G, CNA, reported the following: a. Employees are to check their own temperature and answer questions upon arriving and before leaving. If anyone answers yes to any of the questions they can still work unless they had a temperature above 100.4. b. The screening is not completed consistently and she admitted she is one that forgets to, as there is no one to enforce the staff to complete it. c. On 7/24/20 she answered yes on the screen for cough and not instructed to go home.			

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	d. There are two residents in the 200 hall (one of the units designated for COVID positive residents) that are still negative for COVID, not sure why they are not in the other hallway where the other negative residents are. During an interview on 7/29/20 10:23 a.m., Staff H, RN, reported the following: a. Employees are to take their own temperature before their shift and before leaving. There is no staff sitting at the entrance by the dining room. There is usually a nurse by the employee entrance. b. If anyone answers yes to any questions should call the DON and if anyone had a temperature above 100, should go home. During an interview on 7/29/20 at 2:52 p.m., the Director of Nursing (DON) reported he did not have a written policy on when to contact the public/state health departments of outbreaks and did not have any surveillance on the residents who tested positive for COVID-19. In an interview on 8/3/20 9:28 a.m., the DON reported the following: a. If a staff member marks any of the screening questions with a yes, they are to report it to him and he would check them. b. He would send staff home if they had a temperature above 100.4, he would recheck in an hour and if still above 100.4, he would test them and send them home until he got the test results. If they have a negative test, then they can work.			

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	c. There are three residents residing in the 200 hall (designated for COVID positive residents) that have been negative for COVID. There have been no other rooms for them to move to. A review of the list of residents revealed 8 empty beds in the 100 hallway and 4 empty beds in the 300 hallway. During an interview on 8/4/20 at 10:00 a.m., when asked what he felt caused the outbreak to occur, the DON reported the following: a. The facility had a visitor come through a hallway connecting the independent living apartments (where he resided) to the facility through a door which can not be locked. He would just walk through the door as he knew how to silence the alarm to the door b. The visitor probably entered the facility 6 or 7 times over the course of a month, during that time he had not tested positive for COVID-19 c. On 7/10/20 the visitor's daughter reported he had tested positive for COVID-19 d. When the DON became aware of the visitor coming to the facility, he asked him to call the facility first so they could meet him at the door. The DON reported there had not been much he could do except monitor meal times, which is usually when he would visit. In an interview on 8/6/20 at 1:02 p.m., Staff V, CNA reported when she came to work this morning, the DON never returned to tell her if she should go home and had not tested her for COVID-19. She also reported her first day to work was 7/31/20 and no one took her temperature or screened her. She followed			

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	the other employees, took her own temperature, and answered the questions on the screen. During an interview on 8/10/20 at 7:56 a.m., the DON reported beginning 8/10/20; he will start a line list of monitoring residents and staff that tested positive for COVID-19. When asked for a copy of the facility policy on COVID-19 outbreaks, the DON provided the following: a. A checklist provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health dated 3/27/29 titled: Checklist for Long-Term Care Facilities experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks had documentation of the following: a. Screen all employees for fever and cough/breathing problems at the start and end of each shift. Ill staff should be sent home immediately b. No visitors should be allowed in the facility (unless end of life situation per CMS guidance). b. An untitled form dated 3/27/20 with documentation of the following: all residents should be screened for COVID-19 by taking their temperature and oxygen saturation at least twice per day on first and second shifts, and more often if necessary. If findings show an increase in temp or decrease in oxygen saturations from their norms, then they should be placed in palliative care unit for isolation. c. A form titled: COVID-19 Isolation Plan dated 4/6/20 with documentation of the following: If a resident were to test positive for COVID-19 or be presumed positive based on symptomology, that resident would be placed in the palliative care unit for isolation. Selective staff would be designated to work on the unit and not			

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	other units while a resident is isolated. In the event that more than four beds are needed to isolate, then the residents in the skilled unit would be incorporated into the nursing home, and the unit would be set up for isolation. In the event that they would need to use more than those 13 beds, then the east hall would be set up for isolation. A review of the facility policy tiled: Infection Control Program dated 2009 had documentation of the following: The facility will perform surveillance and investigation of infections, prevent, and control outbreaks and cross-contamination using transmission-based precautions in addition to standard precautions. The infection control nurse/designee in case of an outbreak of a communicable disease will: monitor and document infections, including tracking and analyzing outbreaks of infections as well as implementing and documenting actions to resolve related problems. A review of the facility policy titled: Checklist for Long Term Care Facilities experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks (Iowa Department of Public Health stamped) dated 3/27/20 had documentation of the following: screen all employees for fever and cough/breathing problems at start and end of each shift. Ill staff should be sent home immediately. A review of the COVID-19 Isolation Plan dated 4/6/20 had the following documentation: a. If a resident were to test positive for COVID-19 or be presumed positive based on symptomology, that			

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	resident would be placed in the palliative care unit for isolation. Selective staff would be designated to work on the unit, and not other units while a resident is isolated. b. In the event that more than 4 beds are needed to isolate, then the residents in the skilled unit would be incorporated into the nursing home and the unit would be set up for isolation. In the event that we would need to use more than those 13 beds then east hall would be set up for isolation. A review of the facility policy titled: Long Term Care Respiratory surveillance line list had documentation of the following: The respiratory surveillance line list provides a template for data collection and active monitoring of both residents and staff during a suspected respiratory illness cluster or outbreak at a nursing home. The information in the columns of the worksheet capture data on the case demographics, location in the facility, clinical signs/symptoms, diagnostic testing results and outcomes. The incident detailed above resulted in determination of Immediate Jeopardy for the facility and notified of such on 8/4/20 at 4:15 p.m. The Facility staff abated the Immediate Jeopardy situation on 8/7/20 through the following actions: a. Changed the screening area for staff to the employee entrance on the north side of the building. b. Assigning a designated employee (the Nurse coming off shift) to be available to complete all screenings to include temperature and screening			

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	questions and anyone presenting with either a temperature or failing the screening questions will be sent home. c. All staff reeducated to not report to work if displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, and reeducated that visitors are not allowed in the building unless prior approval by the Administrator and/or DON. d. The residents in the independent living area connected to the facility contacted and additional signage posted at entrance doors to notify of visiting restrictions imposed in the Nursing Home. e. The questions on the Screening Tool were changed to be more inclusive of COVID-19 signs and symptoms. Based on the results of the corrective measures taken by the facility lowered the scope and severity of the deficiency from an L level to an F level. **FACILITY RESPONSE:**			

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