

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Long Term Care Facilities

Key Considerations:

- Provision of the appropriate level of medical care
- Protecting healthcare personnel and non-COVID-19 patients accessing healthcare from infection
- Preparing for a potential surge in patients with respiratory infection
- Preparing for potential personal protective equipment supply and staff shortages

Key Goals for Long Term Care Facilities in Response to COVID-19:

- Reduce morbidity and mortality
- Minimize disease transmission
- Protect Healthcare personnel
- Preserve healthcare system functionality

Actions to Take Now:

1. Review the CDC's COVID-19 Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes and other Long-Term Care settings.
2. Restrict all visitors, volunteers, and non-essential healthcare professionals, except for compassionate end of life situation.
3. Essential healthcare professionals must follow CDC guidance for proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
4. Implement active screening of both residents and staff for fever and respiratory symptoms. Symptom check for employees at the beginning of their shift and mid shift.
5. Remind healthcare professionals not to report to work when they are ill. Implement non-punitive, flexible sick leave policies that allow ill staff to stay home.
6. Educate residents, healthcare personnel, and visitors on the latest information about COVID-19. Communicate any changes in policy, procedures, and operations related to preventing the spread of COVID-19
7. Provide information about hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and visitor restrictions at all entrances.
8. Provide hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette supplies at all entrances.
9. Encourage residents to stay in their rooms. If they leave their room, residents should wear a facemask, perform hand hygiene, limit their movement in the facility, and perform social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others).
10. Cancel all communal dining and group activities.
11. Create a plan for cohorting residents with symptoms of respiratory infections, including dedicating health care professionals to work only on affected units.
12. Inform new admits of COVID-19 in the facility.