Detection and Management of COVID-19 Cases in Congregate Living Facilities

Ill residents in facility?

NO

Resident with fever/respiratory illness identified

Yes

No residents with fever/respiratory illness in facility

• Check each resident daily or instruct independent residents to self-monitor for fever, cough, SOB*
• Provide instructions for reporting any symptoms to facility administrator
• If there are cases of COVID in the community, consider visitor and staff screening

1 or more residents with fever/respiratory illness in facility

• Notify local health department (LHD); notify family/advocate and potentially exposed staff
• Seek guidance for COVID-19 testing from LHD; also test for influenza for first 2-3 symptomatic residents
• Check each resident daily (or more frequently) for fever >100.4F, cough, shortness of breath*; independent residents may self-monitor with instructions to promptly report any symptoms to facility administrator
• Cease communal/group activities; deliver meals to residents in their rooms
• Restrict nonessential visitors and contracted services
• If there are no new cases in the facility for 14 days, consult with LHD about relaxing restrictions

Ill resident(s) remain in facility while ill?

NO

If resident(s) are moved elsewhere or transported, continue above control and monitoring measures.

YES

When ill residents remain in the facility during their illness

• Instruct ill residents to self-isolate in their room or apartment
• House all residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 on one wing/floor if possible; for group homes with two or more residents in a room, keep persons with confirmed COVID-19 together.
• Designate staff members to provide care and assistance to residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19; group care tasks to limit frequent staff entrance to resident rooms and minimize numbers of potentially exposed staff.
• Staff caring for COVID-19 patients should use N95 respirator (preferred) or facemask, face shield or goggles, gown, gloves
• Monitor ill residents daily (or more frequently) for signs of worsening
• Continue isolation precautions and recommended PPE for each ill resident until:
  • At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND
  • At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
• If a resident worsens and needs a higher level of care
  • Notify family/advocate
  • Keep in room
  • Arrange transport
  • Use recommended PPE

* Symptoms of COVID-19 might also include sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches, fatigue; elderly people may not develop fever