

# Department of Health (DOH)

## **COVID-19 Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities**



**August 14, 2020**

# COVID-19 Background

- COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person
- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with a person who has COVID-19
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose or eyes

# DOH LTC Facility Response Efforts Assessments

- Collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Trained and deployed 120 emergency medical services (EMS) Assessments Teams
  - All 3,900 LTC facilities have been assessed
- Ongoing LTC follow-up assessments occur daily to provide personal protective equipment (PPE), staffing and educational/training support needs

# DOH LTC Facility Response Efforts

## General Support

- Provided 2,760 infection prevention educational visits to LTC facilities to ensure patient safety and ensure LTC facility staff can care for COVID-19 positive patients.
- Incident Management teams performed resident and staff testing over 4,000 times in LTC facilities.
- Incident Management teams have provided staff augmentation for LTC facilities 1,474 times.

# DOH LTC Facility Response Efforts Communication



## Assisted Living Facilities Can Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19

<p><b>Keep COVID-19 from entering and leaving your facility.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>DO NOT ALLOW VISITORS</b> except for end-of-life situations.</li><li>▪ Restrict entrance to volunteers and non-essential staff and employees.</li><li>▪ Require facemasks for anyone permitted to enter, and for residents who must leave for medical procedures.</li><li>▪ Cancel field trips, group activities and communal dining.</li></ul> 	<p><b>Identify symptoms and manage infections in residents early.</b></p> <p>A resident with COVID-19 may not show typical symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Atypical symptoms are: new or worsening malaise, new dizziness or diarrhea. <b>IMMEDIATELY ISOLATE ANYONE WITH SYMPTOMS.</b></p> <p><b>TWICE A SHIFT:</b> Take vitals and, if possible, pulse oximetry of residents who are ill—identify residents who may need transfer to a higher care level.</p> <p><b>ONCE A SHIFT SCREEN FOR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Fever, cough and shortness of</li></ul>  <p>Let residents and families know about the actions your facility is taking.</p>
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<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/nursing-homes/>

# CDC's COVID-19 Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool

- Keeping COVID-19 out of the facility
- Identifying infections as early as possible
- Preventing spread of COVID-19 in the facility
- Assessing and optimizing personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies
- Identifying and managing illness in residents with COVID-19

# CDC's COVID-19 Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool

- Visitor restriction
- Education, monitoring and screening of health care personnel (HCP)
- Education, monitoring and screening of residents
- Ensuring availability of PPE and other supplies
- Ensuring adherence to recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) practices
- Communicating with the health department and other health care facilities

# CDC: Core Practices

## *Core practices to remain in place as LTC facilities reopen:*

- Maintain at least one individual with training in infection prevention and control (IPC) to provide on-site management of COVID-19 prevention and response activities.
- Report COVID-19 cases, facility staffing and supply information to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) COVID-19 Module weekly.
- Educate residents, health care personnel and visitors about COVID-19, current precautions being taken in the facility and actions they should take to protect themselves.

# CDC: Core Practices (continued)

*Core practices to remain in place as LTC Facilities reopen:*

- Implement source control measures (i.e., face coverings).
- Have a plan for visitor restrictions.
- Test residents and health care personnel for SARS-CoV-2.
- Evaluate and manage health care personnel.
- Provide supplies necessary to adhere to recommended IPC practices.
- Maintain space in the facility dedicated to monitor and care for residents with COVID-19.

# Practices: Other States

- No more than two people can visit an individual resident at one time.
- Visits are pre-scheduled
- Visits take place in outdoor or restricted spaces.
- Every visitor will pass through a temperature screening before being allowed access, and anyone showing a fever at or greater than 100.0 F or who is also showing symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to visit the resident.
- Guests are required to wear a face covering during the entirety of their visit, and must maintain at least six feet of distance between themselves and the resident as well as any healthcare professional present.
- A health care professional employee of the facility must be present for the entirety of the visit.
- If a visitor develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours after the visit, they must alert the facility.

# Additional Information

Florida Department of Health  
<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

# References / Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - *Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services - *Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials*  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-30-nh.pdf>
- Food and Drug Administration's - *Coronavirus Testing Basics*  
<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/coronavirus-testing-basics>

