

Assisted Living Settings Interim Policy for Safety/Wellness Checks Related to COVID-19

Daily Wellness/Safety Checks

The Centers for Disease Control has published [Considerations When Preparing for COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities](#).

Policy

It is the policy of this organization to minimize exposures to respiratory pathogens to our residents. Given the congregate nature and population served, implementing daily Wellness/Safety checks of the residents will assist in reducing the risk of potential COVID-19 spread. The purpose of completing the Wellness/Safety checks is to monitor for potential signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and identify a potential change in condition. *The organization will follow additional State Specific Assisted Living guidance related to COVID-19.*

Procedure

- Facility will designate one or more staff to complete a Wellness/Safety Check on each resident daily This safety check will include a screening for potential signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Potential signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing
 - Or at least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Older adults with COVID-19 may not show typical symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms. Atypical symptoms may include new or worsening malaise, new dizziness, or diarrhea. Identification of these symptoms should prompt isolation and further evaluation for COVID-19.
 - Residents can notify the facility point of contact if residents develop symptoms.
 - Staff will document the results of the Wellness/Safety Checks on the applicable log.
 - Daily log sheets will be given to the Administrator/Housing Manager.
 - Symptomatic Residents
 - If the resident is symptomatic
 - Immediately isolate the resident and implement [appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions](#) per policy
 - Implement processes for social distancing
 - Contact the Administrator/Housing Manager immediately
 - The Administrator/Housing Manager will:
 - Notify the Health Clinical Coordinator of Wellness Check outcomes
 - Notify your state or local health department immediately (<24 hours) if these occur:
 - i. Severe respiratory infection causing hospitalization or sudden death
 - ii. Clusters (≥3 residents and/or HCP) of respiratory infection
 - iii. Individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
 - iv. Work with state and local health departments to determine and address COVID-19 tests, requirements, prioritization and specimen collection.
 - Contact physician and family/representative per policy

This resource was developed utilizing Information from CDC and CMS.
Providers are reminded to review state and local specific information for any variance to national guidance

Assisted Living Settings

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- Contact and inform the facility Medical Director/Primary Physician
- New or Readmissions
 - For new or readmissions to the organization, facility staff will complete a Wellness/Safety check for the resident.
 - Residents being admitted or readmitted apply a cloth face covering for source control
 - When resident comes into the facility, they should be instructed that if they touch or adjust their cloth face covering, they should perform hand hygiene.
 - When possible, all facility residents, whether they have COVID-19 symptoms or not, should cover their noses and mouths when staff are in their room.
 - Residents can use tissues for this. They could also use cloth, non-medical masks when those are available.

References and Resources

NOTE: The situation regarding COVID-19 is still evolving worldwide and can change rapidly. Stakeholders should be prepared for guidance from their State and Local Public Health Departments and other agencies (e.g., CDC) to change. Please monitor the relevant sources regularly for updates.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Considerations When Preparing for COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/assisted-living.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation (PUI). : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Information for Healthcare Providers. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

Local Health Department Listing and Contacts. <https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory>

Information on affected US locations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

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