

HEALTH ALERT
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):
Guidance for Long-term Care Settings & Correctional Facilities

March 25, 2020

Update from Health Alert released March 20, 2020

Summary and Action Items

- Long-term care facilities are at high risk for severe COVID-19 outbreaks due to their congregate nature and vulnerable population (e.g., older adults with multiple co-morbidities). Ill healthcare personnel or visitors are the most likely sources of introduction of COVID-19 into the facility.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided guidance for [“Preparing for COVID-19: Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes”](#).
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has also provided [“Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes”](#).
- The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is releasing guidance and tools related to COVID-19 in long-term care settings adapted from resources developed by ODH, CDC, and partner states. These resources are available on the Ohio Public Health Communication System (OPHCS) site under Documents > EPI Issues > 2019 Novel Coronavirus > Resources for Long-term Care Settings.
- Guidance and tools for long-term care settings may be adapted for other high-risk congregate settings (e.g., correctional facilities). On March 23, 2020, CDC published [“Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities”](#).

Resources posted in OPHCS are listed below, with key guidance and tools in bold font.

- 1. Key Points for Long Term Care Settings**
2. Long Term Care Letter – “Help Keep our Residents Safe from COVID-19”
- 3. Key Points for Assisted Living Facilities**
4. CDC Preparedness Checklist for Long Term Care Settings
5. CDC Nursing Home Infection Prevention Assessment Tool
- 6. Healthcare Personnel Symptom Monitoring Form**
7. Cleaning and Disinfection Tips
8. PPE Training Checklist and Photos – Competency Validation
9. PPE Assessment Tool
10. Tool for Observation of Hand Hygiene Supplies
11. Tool for Observation of PPE Provision
- 12. Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions**
13. Report Form for High-Risk Settings
14. Line List for COVID-19 Outbreaks in Long Term Care Facilities (use for residents and staff who experience any symptom outside their baseline)

Additional materials in flowchart and checklist formats will be provided as soon as they are finalized.

Contact

Immediately report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the local health department in the jurisdiction in which the case resides. To locate a local health department, please visit

<https://odhgateway.odh.ohio.gov/lhdinformationsystem/Directory/GetMyLHD>.

For general questions related to COVID-19, healthcare providers and facilities should contact their local health department. Ohio local health departments should contact the ODH Bureau of Infectious Diseases at 614-995-5599.