



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

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UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

The Department of Health (DOH) has updated several guidance documents for long-term care and other healthcare settings in February and early March. DOH regularly updates this guidance and shares the updates with long-term care providers on the weekly “Long-Term Care Q&A” call. Due to the number of changes and the transition to the Long-Term Care COVID Response plan, we are providing a summary of the changes below.

Visit the [DOH COVID-19 Infection Prevention in Healthcare Settings](#) to view all of the DOH guidance. Be sure to check this site regularly for changes. This link is also available from the Long-Term Care COVID Response plans. You can register for the weekly “Long-Term Care Q&A” call here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#). The calls happen on Thursdays at 11:00.

2/8/2022

[Interim Recommendations to Mitigate Health Care Worker Staffing Shortage During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- Updated to add clarifying language to emphasize that healthcare workers must be willing to return to work early.

[Preventing Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 During Aerosol Generating and Other Procedures](#)

- Updated to change “fully vaccinated” to “up to date with COVID-19 vaccines” as defined by [CDC’s Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines](#).

[Long-Term Care Facility Testing for Staff and Residents](#)

- Updated to change “fully vaccinated” to “up to date with COVID-19 vaccines” as defined by [CDC’s Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines](#).
- Updated to clarify that asymptomatic healthcare personnel and residents who have been exposed to COVID-19 after recovering from COVID-19 infection in the prior 90 days should be tested using an antigen test rather than a PCR test.
- Updated to include recommendations for prioritization when supplies are limited.

2/16/2022

[Outdoor Visitation Guidance for Long-term Care \(LTC\) Settings](#)

- Updated to reflect that visitors who have had a COVID-19 diagnosis should not visit healthcare facilities until 10 days from either onset of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic.
- Updated to reflect that visitors who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and have had a COVID-19 exposure should not visit healthcare facilities until 10 days from the exposure, or 7 days with a negative test.

[Supplemental Guidance for Long-term Care Facility Visitors](#)

- Updated to reflect that visitors who have had a COVID-19 diagnosis should not visit healthcare facilities until 10 days from either onset of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic.
- Updated to reflect that visitors who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and have had a COVID-19 exposure should not visit healthcare facilities until 10 days from the exposure, or 7 days with a negative test.

[Recommendations for Cohorting in Long-Term Care Facilities During a COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

- Updated to reflect that residents not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines who have been exposed to COVID-19 should quarantine for 10 days or 7 days with a negative test.

2/18/2022

[COVID-19 Visitor Announcement](#)

- Updated to reflect that visitors who have had a COVID-19 diagnosis should not visit healthcare facilities until 10 days from either onset of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic.
- Updated to reflect that visitors who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and have had a COVID-19 exposure should not visit healthcare facilities until 10 days from the exposure, or 7 days with a negative test.

2/28/2022

[Interim COVID-19 Outbreak Definition for Healthcare Settings](#)

- Updated to remove an infection by a health care worker from the definition in alignment with the definition used nationally.

[SARS-CoV-2 Source Control in Healthcare Settings](#)

- Updated to reflect guidance from the CDC that the use of a respirator is required for caring for patients diagnosed with COVID-19, and that facemasks are not allowed as an alternative unless the facility is using crisis management protocols.

3/1/2022

[Interim Guidance for Long-Term Care: Transferring between Long-Term Care and other Healthcare Settings](#)

- Updated with new guidance for quarantining newly admitted residents who are not up to date with vaccination.
- Updated to remove the recommendation for facilities to pause new admissions during a period of outbreak, as long as the resident being admitted or their representative is aware of the outbreak status.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"