

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 412 LILLY RD NE

OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132 DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470



10/22/2021

* NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.

Updated Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Guidance for Outbreaks and New Admissions

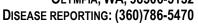
Actions Requested:

- 1) New admissions to your facility who are fully vaccinated, asymptomatic and have not been determined to be close contacts are no longer required to quarantine. This includes individuals who are 2 weeks passed their last dose in a COVID-19 vaccination series. There continues to be a required quarantine of all new admissions who are NOT fully vaccinated for 14 days in either a single room or a separate observation area. During this observation period full PPE including N95 or higher respirator, eye protection, gown and gloves must be used. Test for Sars-CoV-2 if symptoms develop or if there is a new exposure. For residents in 14-day quarantine, consider retesting quarantined asymptomatic residents during days 12-14.
- 2) Follow updated Thurston County Public Health guidance regarding quarantine, testing, and cohorting when a positive COVID-19 case is identified in your facility.
- When a COVID-19 case is identified in your facility, quarantine any units the case was on for longer than 15 minutes during their infectious period.
- Test all staff and all residents on that unit regardless of vaccination status immediately (but not within 2 days of exposure) and 5-7 days after exposure. Continue testing every 3-5 days until there are two rounds of testing with no new cases. The Washington State Department of Health Guidance for Long-Term Care Facility Testing of Staff and Residents can be accessed here: https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/420-334-TestingLongTermCareFacilities.pdf
- Residents who are fully vaccinated and test negative during screening testing
 may be released from quarantine in their rooms 7 days after the most recent
 exposure but should remain quarantined to the unit until 14 days have passed
 with no new COVID-19 cases. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must
 quarantine in their rooms for 14 days after exposure. A unit is released from
 quarantine when 14 days have passed with no new cases.
- Facilities that have the capacity to separately cohort confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, probable COVID-19 cases, and those in quarantine are recommended to follow the cohorting guidance issued by the Washington State Department of Health. Washington State Department of Health Guidance for



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Cohorting in Long-Term Care Facilities During a COVID-19 Outbreak can be accessed here:

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/420-368-LTCFCohorting.pdf

- 3) Monitor residents at least one time a day. Monitor their symptoms, temperature, respiratory status, vital signs, and oxygen saturation at least once a day. During an outbreak monitor residents three times a day. Residents and healthcare personnel should be tested immediately if they develop symptoms. Notify the Thurston County COVID-19 support team if any resident or staff member tests positive within your facility. Contact us at 360-968-4066.
- 4) Screen your staff members for COVID-19 based on Thurston County COVID-19 transmission rates

Facility Type	Recommended or Required	County Positivity Rate/Testing Cadence
Nursing FacilitiesSkilled Nursing Facilities	Required by CMS QSO-20-38-NH and Washington State Department of Health	 Low Transmission: Not recommended Moderate Transmission: Once a week Substantial and High Transmission: Twice a week
Assisted Living Facilities	Required by Thurston County Public Health	 Low Transmission: Not recommended Moderate Transmission: Once a week Substantial and High Transmission: Twice a week
Supported Living FacilitiesAdult Family Homes	Recommended if resources are available	 Low Transmission: Not recommended Moderate Transmission: Once a week Substantial and High Transmission: Twice a week



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Background:

The first long-term care facility outbreak of COVID-19 in United States occurred in Kirkland, WA in February 2020. Since that time the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Social and Health Services, and the Washington State Department of Health have issued guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities. Specialized infection prevention protocols have been developed. The most updated Washington State Department of Health guidance is shared in this update. To date, there have been 88 COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities in Thurston County since the pandemic began.

RESOURCES:

DOH Long-Term Care Facility Testing for Staff and Residents: https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/420-334-
TestingLongTermCareFacilities.pdf

DOH Interim Guidance for Long-Term Care: Transferring between Long-Term Care and other Healthcare Settings:

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/LTCTransferRecs.pdf

DOH Interim Outbreak Definitions for Healthcare Settings:

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/InterimCOVID-HCOutbreak.pdf

DOH COVID-19 Infection Prevention in Healthcare Settings (see heading: Long-Term Care Guidance):

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/InfectionPrevention

CMS Interim Final Rule Regarding Long-Term Care Testing requirements (QSO-20-38-NH): https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh-revised.pdf

DSHS Safe Start for Long-Term Care (Nursing Facilities, Adult Family Homes, Assisted Living Facilities & Enhanced Services Facilities):

https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/residential-care-services/safe-start-long-term-care-plan

DOH COVID-19: https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services COVID-19 website: https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx



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THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY			
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable	Phone: 360-786-5470		
conditions (24 hours a day)	Fax: 360-867-2601		
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470		
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050		
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344		

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS