



My center has a COVID-19 Positive. What do I do?

Earlier today, HCANJ released a regulatory update about PPE and that guidance from NJDOH.

Long term care centers who have a confirmed case of COVID-19 should take the following immediate action to prevent further spread to their residents and staff:

- ***Immediately report a COVID-19 Positive to NJDOH and local health department (LHD).***
- *Follow all current CMS guidance regarding the restriction of visitors and non-essential healthcare personnel, except in certain compassionate-care situations.*
- *STOP all current communal dining and group activities if you have not already done so.*
- *Implement the highest level of active screening of residents and staff for fever and respiratory symptoms. Remember that older adults may manifest symptoms of infection differently and that other symptomology should also be assessed at minimum, daily. Vital signs should include heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, pain and pulse oximetry. The facility staff should have a heightened awareness for any change in baseline in their residents.*
- *Close the center to new admissions if you have not already done so, except as needed to cohort ill individuals or staff.*
- *Consider implementing universal use of facemask for HCP while in the facility.*
- *Encourage residents to remain in their rooms. **If multiple cases are present** restrict residents (to the extent possible) to their rooms except for medically necessary purposes.*
- *Mask all residents (who can tolerate masks) who are symptomatic when providing **direct care**. If masks are limited or not tolerated use of a tissue to cover the nose and mouth is appropriate.*
- *Adhere to internal environmental cleaning protocols to ensure appropriate measures are being taken to clean and disinfect where appropriate including high-touch surfaces and all shared medical equipment (e.g., lifts, blood pressure cuffs, medication carts). Consider increasing the frequency of cleaning in the facility.*
- *Quarantine and monitor exposed contacts including healthcare workers and roommates.*
- ***Remember to report any new cases or persons suspected of COVID-19 to NJDOH and LHD.***

For more information and ongoing updates please visit:

- NJDOH: General COVID-19 Information: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- NJDOH: Key Messaging to Long-term Care Facilities (LTCF) for COVID-19: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NcOv_LINCS_LTCF_Key%20Messages_03032020.108103.pdf
- CMS: Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes (REVISED): <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/3-13-2020-nursing-home-guidance-covid-19.pdf>
- CDC: Preparing for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

For COVID 19 updates, please continue to check the DOH website for routinely-updated information: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>