

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

## Independent and Assisted Living Admissions and Returns to the Community



**Audience:** Colleagues

**Revision Date:** 7/12/2023

**Version:** #3

**COVID-19 Response Team Owner:** Clinical and Operations

**Date of last review:** 1/29/2024

**UNIVERSAL:** This guide is implemented for all Community Transmission Levels

Follow any local, state or federal applicable laws, rules, and regulations that apply to COVID-19 testing or other infection prevention and control (IPC) that are more stringent.

**Update:** No new updates

### Overall strategies for Infection Prevention & Control in Residential Care Settings:

- Facility Personnel:
  - In general, congregate, residential settings like AL/IL/group homes (excluding nursing homes) whose staff provide non-skilled personal care similar to that provided by family members in the home (e.g., many assisted livings, group homes), should follow [community prevention strategies recommended by CDC for persons in the community](#). Healthcare services delivered in these settings should be informed by CDC's Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations. See also: [Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) | CDC](#)
  - Visiting or shared healthcare personnel who enter the setting to provide healthcare to one or more residents (e.g., physical therapy, wound care, intravenous injections, or catheter care provided by home health agency nurses) should follow the healthcare IPC recommendations in this guidance. In addition, if staff in a residential care setting are providing in-person services for a resident with SARS-CoV-2 infection, they should be familiar with recommended IPC practices to protect themselves and others from potential exposures including the hand hygiene, personal protective equipment and cleaning and disinfection practices outlined in this guidance.
- Residents:
  - Provide counseling to residents about [strategies to protect themselves and others](#), including recommendations for source control if they are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease. CDC has information and [resources for older adults](#) and for [people with disabilities](#) See also: [Factors That Affect Your Risk of Getting Very Sick from COVID-19 | CDC](#)

### **Residents being admitted or readmitted to an Assisted Living Community**

Residents should be encouraged to be up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters when eligible. Testing protocols will be based on and applicable local and state requirements.

#### **If Community COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level is NOT High:**

Newly admitted residents should follow local and or state recommendations for congregate settings, e.g., hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene / cough etiquette.

#### **If Community COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level is High:**

All residents will be encouraged to wear a face mask if experiencing symptoms of acute upper respiratory infection when in shared spaces.

### **New Admissions to AL/IL for Persons with Acute COVID-19:**

Colleagues coordinating placement of new residents into AL / IL, group congregate settings, etc. need to be aware and communicate isolation status – if applicable – when arranging for a new admission into the AL/IL facility.

Decisions on placing those who might still be under isolation precautions, e.g., at an acute care ministry, should be based on:

1. Adherence with any applicable local or state requirements involving placement of new residents in AL/IL facilities
2. Assure the resident is clinically stable and ready for discharge, if applicable, from a referring facility, e.g., acute care.
3. The receiving AL / IL facility should be able to accept these new residents if there are no local or state restrictions by encouraging use of source control by the new resident and minimizing time they spend in shared, communal spaces. If transmission-based precautions need to be continued for the resident in this situation it can be adapted to this setting.

### **Residents being admitted to an Independent Living Community**

Residents should be encouraged to be up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters when eligible. If the resident experiences COVID-19 symptoms or reports an exposure to someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19, follow the CDC instructions for general public testing available at [COVID Testing Flowchart\\_V3\\_Links \(cdc.gov\)](#).

Residents will be encouraged to follow CDC guidelines for the public for COVID-19 mitigation efforts available at [How to Protect Yourself and Others | CDC](#)