

DATE: March 19, 2020
TO: Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities
FROM: Teresa Anderson, Health Director
RE: COVID-19 UPDATE

Summary of Changes to the CDC Guidance and Recommendation to Nursing Homes:

COVID-19 is being increasingly reported in communities across the United States. It is likely that COVID-19 will be identified in more communities, including areas where cases have not yet been reported. As such, nursing homes should assume it could already be in their community and move to restrict all visitors and unnecessary HCP from the facility; cancel group activities and communal dining; and implement active screening of residents and HCP for fever and respiratory symptoms.

- Restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations
- Restrict all volunteers and non-essential healthcare personnel (HCP), including non-essential healthcare personnel (e.g., barbers)
- Cancel all group activities and communal dining
- Implement active screening of residents and HCP for fever and respiratory symptoms
- Symptoms of COVID-19 now include sore throat fever, cough, and shortness of breath

It is important to understand transmission dynamics in your community to inform strategies to prevent introduction or spread of COVID-19 in your facility. Central District is working to provide you with updated information to help you better understand if transmission of COVID-19 is occurring in your community. Currently, we have completed 15 COVID-19 tests with 10 negative and 5 pending.

A checklist (*Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes and other Long-Term Care Settings*) is available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/novel-coronavirus-2019-Nursing-Homes-Preparedness-Checklist_3_13.pdf

Completing this checklist may be helpful in preparing now for COVID-19. Please contact us with questions or comments.