



# COVID-19 – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new strain of Coronavirus, which is an infectious disease. It can lead to respiratory illness with symptoms such as cough, fever and shortness of breath. COVID-19 can be more severe than the flu, and with a higher mortality rate. Certain populations are more at risk of contracting this virus, including individuals age 60 and older and people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions.

COVID-19 affects people in different ways. Greater than fifty percent (50%) of people infected with COVID-19 don't present with any signs and symptoms or become ill (asymptomatic carriers). Asymptomatic carriers can still transmit the virus to others.

## What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

- Isolation – separates sick people with a contagious disease from those who are not sick.
- Quarantine – separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. These people may have been exposed and do not know it, or they may have the disease but are not showing symptoms.

## Staying safe and connected:

- To learn how we are keeping you and your loved one safe during visits, please contact the facility.
- If you are unable to visit in person for whatever reason, you can stay connected with your loved one through technology. We will assist your loved one with their tele-visits and electronic communication, to include video conferencing (Skype, FaceTime, Zoom), Facebook messenger messaging, text messaging, email or phone calls.
- Modifications are continually being made to ensure that therapy services, communal dining and activities are being provided in a manner that is enjoyable and beneficial for your loved one, while at the same time reducing the risk of infection and staying in compliance with current guidelines.



## In an effort to reduce the spread of infection:

- We encourage all residents and staff who can be vaccinated to do so, after providing education on the benefits and risks.
- All symptomatic residents are placed in isolation with increased monitoring.
- New admissions/readmissions who are not “up-to-date” on COVID-19 vaccinations will be placed in quarantine in accordance with current CDC and CMS recommendations.
- COVID-19 testing is prioritized for residents and facility staff according to guidance by the CDC, CMS and local and state public health departments.
- Residents who are not medically stable or those for whom the facility cannot fully implement all infection control precautions may be transferred to the hospital.
- All Health Care Providers (HCP) are screened at the beginning of their shift for fever and signs and symptoms.
- HCPs are reminded to stay home if they are ill.
- If HCPs develop a fever and/or signs and symptoms while at work, they are immediately relieved from duty and sent home.
- HCPs are reminded to practice social distancing while in breakrooms or common areas.

## Steps facilities are taking to prevent and control COVID-19:

- A facility assessment has been completed to determine if the facility's Infection Control Plan and Procedures meet CMS and CDC requirements to address COVID-19.
- Facilities communicate frequently with the state survey agency, local and state public health departments, emergency management and the CDC to share residents' conditions, obtain the most up-to-date information and resources and ask for help if needed.
- Facilities develop and implement a plan for frequent communication with the residents and families about the facility conditions and individual resident updates.

## Additional information and resources related to COVID-19 are available at:

- CDC COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>
- WHO COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

**WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!**