

Telligen QI Connect

COVID-19 in LTC Office Hours: Colorado Office Hours on May 28th, 2020

Questions & Helpful Resources

Category: Personal Protective Equipment

- 1. Question:** We are following the CDC guidelines for full COVID PPE for new or readmissions into our LTC facility. We are using a lot of gowns for the 14 days of observation since it is in the guidelines that gowns are single use. If they do not become contaminated with body fluids or damaged, can 1 HCP carefully re-use for their shift?

Helpful Resources: [Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE & Equipment](#)
[Strategies to Optimize the Supply of Isolation Gowns](#)

Helpful Resources:

if extended use of gowns is implemented as part of crisis strategies, the same gown should not be worn when caring for different residents unless it is for the care of residents with confirmed COVID-19 who are cohorted in the same area of the facility and these residents are not known to have any co-infections (e.g., *Clostridioides difficile*) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

- 2. Question:** CDC recommends that disposable gowns are single use but if the gowns are being used for the 2-week observation period for new admissions and the gowns are not contaminated, is it OK to re-use the gowns being careful?

Helpful Resources: [Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE & Equipment](#)
[Strategies to Optimize the Supply of Isolation Gowns](#)

Category: Essential Healthcare Personnel

- 1. Question:** To reduce traffic and contamination risk, hospice care providers throughout the country are not being allowed into care facilities and facility leaders are broadly interpreting the term “essential healthcare personnel” and “end of life situations.” Can you offer any clarity on when it is appropriate for care facilities to allow community healthcare partners, like hospice, in and how to do so safely?

Helpful Resource: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-14-nh-revised.pdf>

Helpful Resource: <https://leadingage.org/regulation/cms-outlines-key-activities-nursing-home-reopening>

Helpful Resource:

https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/LTC/LTC%20Reopening%20Phases%20and%20Testing_Up_dated%2006092020.pdf

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Category: Testing

- Question:** Is baseline testing and weekly staff testing mandated by CMS to move to phase two of reopening or will states decide what the testing requirements will be?
Helpful Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>
- Question:** If testing is readily available to a facility would you recommend test based strategies for staff to return to work as well as taking residents off of isolation versus symptom-based strategy in these cases.
Helpful Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>
Helpful Resource: [CDC Testing Guidance](#)
- Question:** Should we be doing testing on acute care patients discharging...that would be going home...with home health, hospice...to protect those households and healthcare workers?
Helpful Resource: [CDC Testing Guidance](#)
Helpful Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html>

Category: Cohorting/ Quarantine Organization

- Question:** What are your recommendations for a facility which has no open resident rooms? They are all single private rooms. Assign separate staff COVID +/-? With separate nurses stations?
Helpful Resources: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html#Patient_Placement
- Question:** With a COVID 19 positive unit residents are moved into this area when known positive results. Due to Residents testing dates of positive results varying which in turn varies the day they are able to be considered recovered and moved from this area what is the recommendation for placement of ongoing newly positive residents. Is best practice to move them into the COVID positive area and at the same time moving residents out who are recovered?
Helpful Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html>
Helpful Resources: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html#Patient_Placement

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Category: Msc. / Clinical

Question: Should a patient who goes to dialysis be considered COVID exposed?

Helpful Resource: CDC has a Call Center that is staffed by clinicians 24/7: (770) 488-7100

Helpful Resource: About 2/3 down on the page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-testing.html> CDC suggests directing repeat rounds of testing to residents who leave and return to the facility

Helpful Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dialysis.html>

Disclaimers:

- The following answers to participants' questions reflect currently available information about COVID-19 as of May 28th, 2020. However, COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. Therefore, it remains critically important to continually check the CDC's most up-to-date guidance, as well as the guidance from your local/state health department.
 - CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>