

Interim COVID-19 Outbreak Definition for Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities

This guidance applies to long-term care and residential care facilities that provide a range of health and personal services for aging individuals or people living with physical or behavioral health conditions who need assistance. Residents live in these congregate healthcare settings full-time with overnight stays. This guidance does not apply to hospitals or clinic settings.

Definitions

Long-Term Care Facility:

- Nursing homes and skilled nursing
- Adult family homes
- Assisted living facilities

Healthcare Worker:

Healthcare worker (HCW) refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances; contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air. For this document, HCW does not include clinical laboratory personnel.

Close Contact:

Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes¹

OR

Having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the patient (e.g., being coughed on, touching used tissues with a bare hand)

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Suspected COVID-19 Case:

At least two of the following:

- Fever (measured or subjective)
- Chills
- Rigors

- Myalgia
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New olfactory and taste disorder

OR

At least one of the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing

AND

No alternative more likely diagnosis

Confirmed COVID-19 Case²:

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in a clinical specimen using a molecular amplification detection test.

²<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-107-Guideline-COVID-19.pdf>

Long-Term Care Facility Outbreak

Outbreak Definition:

- One resident or healthcare worker with confirmed COVID-19,
OR
- One resident with severe respiratory infection resulting in hospitalization or death,
OR
- Two or more residents or healthcare workers with new-onset respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 72 hours of each other.

Outbreak End:

- 28 days from the date of the last onset of symptoms
OR
- From the last positive test of an asymptomatic person, whichever is longer.

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