

COVID-19

Response in Long-term Care Facilities

Keep COVID-19 from entering your building

- Exclude all visitors, except for compassionate care situations (i.e. end of life).
- Restrict all volunteers and non-essential healthcare personnel (HCP), including non-essential healthcare personnel (e.g., barbers).
- Cancel any field trips and any in-house group activities , including communal dining.
- Screen and exclude anyone entering the building with respiratory symptoms and/ or a fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ F.).

Identify Infections Early

Actively monitor healthcare personnel (HCP) and residents. It is public policy of the state of Michigan that employers implement sick leave policies that are non-punitive, flexible, and allow ill HCP to stay home. Facilities must call the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) immediately at (517) 541-2641 about residents with respiratory infection, or a cluster of residents or HCP with symptoms of respiratory infections. If a resident tests positive, you must inform employees no later than 12 hours and BEDHD no later than 24 hours after identification. The latest direction (as of 4/16/20) from the governor's office can be found [here](#).

Monitor symptoms of employees, residents & anyone who enters the facility:

- Take temperature 1x per day for residents & at door before each shift for employees
- Screen for cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, malaise, new dizziness & diarrhea

If you have residents with mild COVID-19 symptoms or who have tested positive, do the following:

- Isolate immediately. Keep them in their room and away from everyone else and common areas. Separate symptomatic/ positive residents from asymptomatic residents.
- Employees should always wear a mask and should wear any other PPE available when tending to ill residents.
- If possible, exercise consistent assignment (assignment of staff to certain residents) to enhance detection of changes in resident conditions.
- If individual rooms for sick residents are not an option, consider using a large room with good circulation.
- Follow [CDC recommendations](#) for how to prevent further spread.
- In areas where residents with respiratory illness are staying, keep beds at least 6 feet apart, use temporary barriers between beds (such as curtains), and request that all residents sleep head-to-toe.
- If possible, designate a separate bathroom for sick residents with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Consider reducing cleaning frequency in bedrooms and bathrooms dedicated to ill persons to as-needed cleaning (e.g., of soiled items and surfaces) to avoid contact.

If you have employees or HCPs with mild COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive, do the following:

- Send ill employee home and instruct all employees to wear masks.
- Instruct employee to call their health care provider if they have not been tested and think they may have been exposed. Do not show up at the office without calling first.
- Disinfect surfaces that may have come in contact with employee. Follow the CDC's guidelines for [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#).
- **Employee or HCP may return to work when:**
 - At least 3 days have passed since they have been fever-free without the use of fever reducing medicines and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND
 - At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Additional recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19

- Provide educational sessions or handouts for HCP and residents/families.
- Encourage all residents to remain in their room.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not an option, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. Do not shake hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue away. Or you may cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- If staff are handling resident's belongings, they should use disposable gloves. Make sure to train any staff using gloves to [ensure proper use](#).
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.
- Notify employees of any changes in CDC recommendations related to COVID-19.
- Facility should keep in mind that the incubation period can be up to 14 days and the identification of a new case within a week to 10 days of starting the interventions does not necessarily represent a failure of the interventions to control transmission

Assess supply of personal protection equipment (PPE):

Wearing masks and gloves in every situation is recommended but each facility is different when it comes to availability and supply. You may wear a homemade cloth face covering (or a mask if you have one) to protect others if industrial masks are unavailable. This can be a scarf, bandana, or cut up T-shirt. Call the health department at (517) 541-2641 if you have questions about your facilities' supplies and availability. The latest direction (as of 4/16/20) from the governor's office, including discharge and transfer information can be found [here](#).

CONTACT US:

(517) 541-2641



Barry-Eaton District
Health Department

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[Barry-Eaton District COVID-19 Information](#)
[MDHHS LCF Guide to Protect Residents](#)
[MDHHS COVID-19 Information](#)