COVID-19 continues to cause serious illness in Los Angeles County, especially in seniors and those with underlying medical conditions. This guidance is intended for community care facilities (CCFs). CCFs are congregate residential care settings that are not skilled nursing facilities but that provide some level of care to residents. CCFs include residential facilities licensed under the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD), as well as substance use treatment centers, behavioral and mental health treatment facilities, and licensed or unlicensed group homes.

This guidance is to help CCFs:

• Prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 within their facility.
• Prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 between and outside of facilities.

Facilities licensed by CCLD should look at the CDSS Provider Information Notices (PINs) website for all licensing requirements. Facilities licensed by other entities should ensure they read the most up to date requirements from their licensing body.

Note: where there are different requirements between the most current PINs, Cal/OSHA, CDPH, and LA County DPH, CCFs should follow the most stringent (protective) requirements.

Visit the LAC DPH COVID-19 CCF webpage for related resources. If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, call the LA County Information line at 2-1-1, which is available 24 hours a day. We appreciate your efforts to keep Los Angeles County healthy.

**Screening and Signage**

• Staff must continue to observe residents for symptoms of COVID-19 and take appropriate action when needed.
• Staff, visitors, volunteers, and other individuals entering the facility should self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19.
• Post signs reminding staff, visitors, and all other individuals to not enter the facility if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or are positive for COVID-19.
• Post signs for residents recommending masks and the importance of hand hygiene.

For examples of signage see DPH COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses and Employers.

**Vaccination**

Being up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses is the best way to protect against serious illness and death caused by COVID-19. Community Care Facilities can request LAC DPH on-site assistance with vaccinating their staff and residents by completing the LAC DPH Mobile Vaccine Team interest form/formulario de interés.
Residents: Facilities should ensure that all residents are up to date with any COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended for them.

- Offer age appropriate COVID-19 vaccine doses to all residents as soon as they are eligible for a dose.
- Have a system for checking if all new residents are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines (vaccine cards, online records, etc.), and have a system in place for vaccinating the individual if they are overdue for a recommended vaccine dose. A vaccine dose may be delayed for up to 90 days after recent COVID-19 infection.
- Continue to improve vaccination rates for residents including re-offering the recommended vaccine dose to persons who initially decline. See Best Practices for Improving Vaccination in CCFs for more strategies.

Staff:

- Effective 08/04/2023, staff in CCFs, particularly those covered by the rescinded Health Officer Order COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Health Care Workers [congregate living health facilities (CLHFs), intermediate care facilities (ICFs), adult day healthcare centers /community based adult services facilities (ADHCs/CBASs), residential substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment facilities, and any other facility that is staffed by a regional center], are no longer required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. However, it is strongly recommended that they stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations.

COVID-19 vaccines are free and widely available across LA County. Visit ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated to find locations. Call 1-833-540-0473 for help making an appointment, transportation to a vaccination site, or to set up vaccination for people who are homebound. Phone lines are open from 8am to 8:30pm, 7 days a week. Information is also available in many languages 24/7 by calling 2-1-1.

See CDC Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines for detailed vaccine recommendations by age.

**COVID-19 Treatment**

COVID-19 treatment can prevent people with COVID from getting very sick. All residents in CCFs with COVID-19 or who are symptomatic close contacts should be evaluated for treatment for COVID-19 promptly. The oral medicines must be started within 5 days of when symptoms begin. Most adults and some children qualify for treatment if they have symptoms of COVID-19 AND either test positive for COVID-19 OR a doctor recommends treatment.

Medications for COVID-19 are free and can be prescribed by a healthcare provider or by contacting the health department at 1-833-540-0473. For more information, visit ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines.

The LAC DPH Mobile Therapeutics Team (MTT): Facilities with 3 or more patients with symptomatic COVID-19 infection can request the MTT to come to the facility to assess and treat residents. See flyer - English | Español.

**Infection Prevention and Control Plan**

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
08/10/2023–Community Care Facilities
All facilities should develop an infection control plan in accordance with regulatory requirements in CDSS PIN 22-13-ASC. This includes having a designated Infection Preventionist.

Infection Preventionist training courses and information on how to build an infection prevention program can be found on the DPH CCF Infection Prevention webpage.

### Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Well-fitting masks help prevent the spread of COVID-19. County public indoor mask wearing rules and recommendations change based on local metrics. These metrics are updated regularly and published on the LA County COVID-19 Response Plan website.

### Residents
- All residents must be provided a clean mask on request.
- Residents with symptoms of possible COVID-19 should wear a well-fitting surgical mask or respirator around others.
- Residents with COVID-19 must wear a well-fitting mask (surgical masks or respirator recommended) if they must be around others through Day 10 as per isolation instructions: ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation.
- Residents who are close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask (surgical mask or respirator recommended) indoors around others through Day 10 as per instructions for close contacts: ph.lacounty.gov/covidcontacts.

### Staff
- Effective 08/11/2023, staff in CCFs, particularly those covered by the rescinded Health Officer Order Masking in Healthcare and Direct Care Settings [congregate living health facilities (CLHFs), intermediate care facilities (ICFs), adult day healthcare centers /community based adult services facilities (ADHCs/CBASs), residential substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment facilities, and any other facility that is staffed by a regional center], are no longer required to wear a well-fitting mask at all times when providing care to or working in-person with residents. However, it is strongly recommended that staff in all CCFs continue to wear well-fitting masks when working directly with residents.
- Depending on facility type, your facility may fall under the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standard or the COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations. Even in facilities where N95 respirators are not required for the care of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases, staff and caregivers are strongly recommended to wear N95 respirators when caring for these residents. Please ensure you are complying with the regulations that apply to your facility. In addition, they must wear any other appropriate PPE pursuant to facility specific regulations (see CDC Use of PPE poster).
- Staff with COVID-19 infection who are permitted to return to work must wear a well-fitting mask at all times around others through at least Day 10. Surgical masks or respirators are strongly recommended.
- Staff who are close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask at all times while they are at work around others through Day 10. Surgical masks or respirators are strongly recommended.
- Facilities should consider sharing with staff the LAC DPH one-pager for workers Know which Masks Provide the Best Protection (available in multiple languages at ph.lacounty.gov/masks).
Visitors

- Visitors to the facility are strongly recommended to wear well-fitting masks while in the facility.
- Visitors to a resident in isolation for COVID-19 should be provided with the same type of PPE used by facility staff. Visitors do not need a fit tested N95 respirator but should be instructed on how to perform a seal check.

When masks are not required, all individuals may choose to wear a mask without fear of discrimination or retaliation.

Additional masks resources see:
- CDPH Guidance for Use of Face Masks and Mask Q&A
- LA County Mask Wearing Rules and Recommendations

Group Activities, Communal Dining, and Visitation

Group activities and communal dining are open to all residents not in isolation. Group activities and communal dining should occur in large rooms with good ventilation or outside, if possible.

For the most current visitation information please refer to the CDSS PIN 23-07-ASC.

COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts

CCFs should follow the CDPH Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine of the General Public.

Residents:

- With symptoms of possible COVID-19 should isolate away from others and test for COVID-19.
- Who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate and follow all instructions for isolation.
- Who are close contacts to a COVID-19 case should follow all instructions for close contacts.

Staff:

- With symptoms of possible COVID-19 should be excluded from work pending COVID-19 test results.
- Who test positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from the workplace until they meet all return to work requirements.
  - Facilities must ensure that all COVID-19 cases returning to the workplace wear a well-fitting mask through Day 10 (Day 0 is symptom onset day; if they have no symptoms, Day 0 is the test collection day of first positive test).
- Who are close contacts may continue to work as long as they have no symptoms of COVID-19. They should test for COVID-19 3-5 days after their last close contact. For 10 days, they should wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors and monitor their health. See Employees that are Close Contacts. Note: if there is an outbreak in the facility, testing and masking is required by Cal/OSHA.
Facilities should refer to the CAL-OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations for testing of workplace close contacts, work exclusion, return to work criteria, and outbreak/response testing. In addition, see DPH Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace.

### Case Reporting

CCFs must report within 24 hours when they know of at least one COVID-19 case in a resident or at least 3 or more linked COVID-19 cases among staff within a 7-day period. Report cases to LAC DPH by using the RedCap Reporting Form: [https://redcap.link/lac-covid](https://redcap.link/lac-covid) or by calling 213-240-7941 during daytime hours or 213-974-1234 (After Hours Emergency Operator).

For more details, including the definition of linked cases, see the Los Angeles County Health Officer Order COVID-19 Reporting Requirements.

### Cleaning & Disinfecting Practices

- Regularly cleaning surfaces helps prevent the spread of germs that make people sick.
- Facilities should regularly clean frequently touched surfaces and objects such as door handles, stair rails, elevator buttons, touchpads, restroom fixtures. They should also clean other surfaces when they are visibly dirty.
- In addition to cleaning, the CDC recommends disinfecting areas where people have been obviously ill (for instance, vomiting on facility surfaces).

See [CDC When and How to Clean and Disinfect a Facility](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfecting.html) for more detailed information.

### Additional Resources

**LAC DPH**
- COVID-19 website: [ph.lacounty.gov/Coronavirus](http://ph.lacounty.gov/Coronavirus) and [sitemap](http://ph.lacounty.gov/sitemap)
- Guidelines for COVID-19 Cases (Isolation) and Close Contacts: [English](http://ph.lacounty.gov/en/coronavirus/cases-isolation) | [Spanish](http://ph.lacounty.gov/es/coronavirus/cases-isolation)
- CCF Infection Prevention Webpage
- COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses and Employers
- [Los Angeles Health Alert Network](http://www.laphc.org/alerts): communications to health care professionals regarding time-sensitive topics such as local or national disease outbreaks and emerging health risks.

**California Department of Social Services**
- [Provider Information Notices (PINs) by Program](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/)
- [ASC COVID-19 PINs by Topic](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/)
- [CRP COVID-19 PINs by Topic](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- COVID Prevention
- Ventilation in Buildings | Ventilation in Homes
- Hand Hygiene