

# Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities



Coronavirus Disease  
2019 (COVID-19)  
Preparedness

- Restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
- Restrict all volunteers and non-essential healthcare personnel (HCP).
- Implement active screening of residents and HCP for fever and respiratory symptoms.
- Cancel communal dining and all group activities, such as internal and external activities.
- Remind residents to practice social distancing and perform frequent hand hygiene.
- Create a plan for cohorting residents with symptoms of respiratory infection, including dedicating HCP to work only on affected units.

## When there is a case in your community, but not in your facility:

- Consider implementing universal use of facemasks for HCP while in the facility.

## When there is a case in your facility and/or sustained transmission in your community:

### **Healthcare Personnel Monitoring and Restrictions:**

- Implement universal use of facemask for HCP while in the facility.
- Consider having HCP wear all recommended PPE (gown, gloves, eye protection, N95 respirator, or if not available, a facemask) for the care of all residents, regardless of presence of symptoms. Implement protocols for extended use of eye protection and facemasks.

### **Resident Monitoring and Restrictions:**

- Encourage residents to remain in their room. If there are cases in the facility, restrict residents (to the extent possible) to their rooms except for medically necessary purposes.
  - If they leave their room, residents should wear a facemask, perform hand hygiene, limit their movement in the facility, and perform social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others).
- Implement protocols for cohorting ill residents with dedicated HCP.

*Information obtained from the Centers for Disease Control ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities)). Please reference that site for updates.*