

CDC Updates SNF Guidance Based on Omicron Increased Infection Risk

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated infection prevention and control recommendations for nursing homes, accounting for the increased infection risk with the Omicron variant of COVID. Key changes in the new CDC guidance for nursing homes are related to testing, isolation, quarantine, visitation, and source control.

Testing

Testing on asymptomatic residents with close contact exposure has been expanded to include:

- ✓ Newly admitted residents and residents who have left the facility for 24 hours.

Isolation

Residents who have COVID and are either asymptomatic or have a mild-to-moderate illness, and who are not moderately to severely immunocompromised should:

- ✓ Follow a 10-day isolation period.
- ✓ There is no option to shorten the isolation period based on a negative test result.

For symptomatic and asymptomatic residents who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, providers should:

- ✓ Use a test-based strategy and consult with an infectious disease specialist or other medical experts to identify when the resident can be released.

Quarantine

Residents who are **not** up-to-date with vaccines and have had close contact exposure should:

- ✓ Quarantine even if viral testing is negative.
- ✓ Residents can be removed from quarantine after 10 days, or 7 days with a negative test result within 48 hours.



Quarantine (continued)

Residents who are up to date with vaccines and have had close contact exposure should:

- ✓ Get tested and wear a mask.

Visitation

Visitors should not enter a nursing home if:

- ✓ They have not met the same criteria used to discontinue isolation and quarantine for residents—even if they met the community criteria.
- ✓ They have symptoms, close exposure, have a positive test, or other infection risk factors.

Source Control

Masking is recommended for healthcare personnel when:

- ✓ Caring for residents with or suspected to have COVID.
- ✓ Living in a county with substantial-to-high community transmission (NIOSH-approved or N95 is recommended).
- ✓ Caring for residents who are not vaccinated.
- ✓ Caring for residents in poorly ventilated areas.

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