



8/26/2021

*\* NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

**Updated Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Guidance and New Phone Number for COVID-19 Support for Long-Term Care Facilities**

**Actions Requested:**

- 1) **Quarantine all new admissions to your facility for 14 days regardless of vaccination status.** Quarantine all new admissions for 14 days in either a single room or a separate observation area. During this observation period full PPE including N95 or higher respirator, eye protection, gown and gloves must be used. Test for Sars-CoV-2 if symptoms develop or if there is a new exposure.
- 2) **Perform routine testing of staff regardless of vaccination status.** Test positivity rates from the preceding week are to be used to determine cadence for screening testing and can be found in section titled "COVID-19 Testing" at <https://data.cms.gov/covid-19/covid-19-nursing-home-data>. DOH Long-Term Care Facility Testing for Staff and Residents: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/420-334-TestingLongTermCareFacilities.pdf>

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Recommended/Required</b>	<b>County Positivity Rate/ Testing Cadence</b>
<b>Nursing Facilities Skilled Nursing Facilities</b>	<b>Required by <a href="#">CMS QSO-20-38-NH</a> and Washington State Department of Health</b>	<b>&lt;5% - Once a month 5-10% - Once a week &gt;10% - Twice a week</b> □
<b>Assisted Living Facilities</b>	<b>Required by Thurston County Public Health</b>	<b>&lt;5% - Once a month &gt;5% - Once a week</b>
<b>Supported Living Facilities Adult Family Homes</b>	<b>Recommended if resources are available</b>	<b>&lt;5% - Once a month &gt;5% - Once a week</b>

- 3) **Call 360-968-4066 for Thurston County COVID-19 support for long-term care facilities.** Thurston County has a new phone number for long-term care facilities to use to report new cases and COVID-19 exposures and to reach the Outbreak Team. It is answered between 8am and 5pm seven days a week. If you need to report a case at other times, you can leave a message on the secure communicable disease reporting line by calling 360-786-5470.

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**Background:**

Thurston County is currently experiencing a surge in cases due to the delta variant. The delta variant is a strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is more readily transmissible than previous strains and has become the dominant variant in Washington State. People who are fully vaccinated can become infected with this variant and spread the disease to others. Vaccination is highly effective at preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19 and reduces the risk of infection. There have been instances of newly admitted fully vaccinated individuals in long-term care facilities testing positive for COVID-19 in Thurston County. Individuals with medical comorbidities are at increased risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19 infection. COVID-19 can spread rapidly in long-term care facilities. There has been 76 COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities in Thurston County since the pandemic began.

**RESOURCES:**

CMS Interim Final Rule Regarding Long-Term Care Testing requirements (QSO-20-38-NH): <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh-revised.pdf>

DSHS Safe Start for Long-Term Care (Nursing Facilities, Adult Family Homes, Assisted Living Facilities & Enhanced Services Facilities):  
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/residential-care-services/safe-start-long-term-care-plan>

DOH Long Term Care Facility Testing for Staff and Residents:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/420-334-TestingLongTermCareFacilities.pdf>

DOH Interim Guidance for Long-Term Care: Transferring between Long-Term Care and other Healthcare Settings:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/LTCTransferRecs.pdf>

DOH Interim Outbreak Definitions for Healthcare Settings:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/InterimCOVID-HCOutbreak.pdf>

DOH COVID-19 Infection Prevention in Healthcare Settings (see heading: Long-Term Care Guidance):  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/InfectionPrevention>

DOH COVID-19: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION  
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
412 LILLY RD NE  
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132  
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470



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Thurston County Public Health and Social Services COVID-19 website:  
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

## THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting <b>non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)</b>	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
<b>Day time immediately reportable conditions</b> – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
<b>After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency</b>	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is <b>immediately notifiable</b>	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>