

Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Outbreaks

Beginning 5-30-20 the Thurston County Health Officer has ordered the following:

Requested Action:

1. Notify the health department immediately if you have suspect or confirmed COVID-19 cases.
2. Screen all individuals working in long-term care facilities at the beginning of their shift and residents living in the facility daily for fever, and symptoms of Covid-19 (respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat, headache, fatigue) and perform pulse oximetry of residents for changes in oxygen saturation at least daily. (Note that long term care residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection may be less likely to show signs of fever and respiratory signs and symptoms may be subtle.)
3. Maintain a record (e.g., a log with contact information, date, travel and illness screening and temperature) of all staff and residents (including vendors, inspectors, etc.)
4. All individuals working in long term care facilities must wear a mask when providing patient care and at all and anytime they are within 6 feet of another individual in the facility including during breaks and meals. Can take masks off while eating but must be sitting at least 6 feet apart.
5. All individuals working in long term care facilities must wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently:
 - Upon entering the establishment
 - Before and after putting on personal protective equipment gloves, face shields, masks, gowns, etc.
 - Upon entering and leaving a resident's room, between resident's, providing care and/or services
 - Before and after using the restroom, taking breaks, eating meals
6. Resident's positive for fever or respiratory signs/symptoms, must be isolated in their room. Implement recommended infection control precautions and put plans in place for testing.
7. Isolate residents who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities and who test positive for COVID-19 immediately away from other people.
8. Employees positive for fever or respiratory signs/symptoms, must immediately put on a facemask, leave the facility and self-isolate at home, put plans in place for testing
9. Instruct employees testing positive for Covid-19 to self-isolate at home and wait for instruction from the health department.
10. Put plans in place to limit movement and ensure social distancing (i.e., staying 6 feet away from others) throughout the facility.
11. Ensure residents perform hand hygiene and wear a facemask (contingent on supply) if they leave their room.
12. Increase environmental cleaning. Disinfect all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, bathrooms, remote controls, and wheelchairs. Limit sharing of personal items between residents.
13. Keep a record of other facilities where your staff are working. (Note that staff who work in multiple healthcare facilities may pose a higher risk.)

THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
 412 LILLY RD NE
 OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
 DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2500
 Diana Yu, MD, MSPH, Acting Health Officer



5/30/20

Background:

Thurston County is investigating its first outbreak of Covid-19 reported in a long-term care facility. The first case in the facility was reported on May 26, 2020. All staff and residents were tested May 27 and May 28. 8 Staff and 8 residents have currently tested positive with additional results pending. The investigation includes an adult family home with staff in common between the facilities and Covid-19 confirmed in a resident.

Resources:

DOH Long Term Care -

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/LongTermCareFacilities>

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

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

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services -

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – 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
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

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