



## Long Term Care Setting Considerations for Residents Admission/Readmission during a Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak August 11, 2020

Facilities experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 should consider the following points when accepting a patient for admission/readmission to the facility. The facility should be able to fully implement, and be compliant with, all [recommended infection control precautions](#).

These include assuring that a facility has adequate:

1. **Staff** to care for current and incoming residents,
2. **Supplies** (e.g., PPE, hand hygiene products, disinfectants), and
3. **Space** to house and maintain separation of infected and non-infected residents.

### For Positive COVID-19 Patient Admission/Readmission

Laboratory-confirmed residents should be isolated until they meet the current [CDC criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions](#).

- Is this a previous resident of this long-term care facility?
  - Consideration should be given to previous residents returning if all infection control precautions can be implemented.
- Does the facility have residents with COVID-19?
- Does the facility have:
  - Dedicated staff to cohort with COVID-19-positive residents
  - PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, surgical masks and N-95s as appropriate, eye protection)
  - Hand hygiene supplies
  - EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant ([List N](#))
  - Dedicated space to care for residents who are positive for COVID-19
- Can the facility fully implement all recommended [transmission-based precautions](#)?
  - If not, they should be transferred to a facility that is capable of implementing appropriate infection control precautions.

### For Negative or Unknown COVID-19 Admission/Readmission

Residents with negative or unknown COVID-19 status should be kept in quarantine until 14 days after admission/readmission.

- Is this a previous resident of this long term-care facility?
  - Consideration should be given to previous residents returning if all infection control precautions can be implemented.

- Note: Incoming residents should be placed in quarantine, away from the general facility population, for 14 days after admission to assure they are not in the incubation phase.
- Does the facility have residents with COVID-19?
  - If a facility has patients with COVID-19, consider referring negative COVID-19 residents who were not previously a resident of this facility to a facility without COVID-19 positive residents.
- Does the facility have:
  - Dedicated staff to cohort in the quarantine area
  - PPE (All recommended PPE should be worn during the care of residents in the quarantine area.)
  - Hand hygiene supplies
  - EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant ([List N](#))
  - Dedicated space to quarantine the resident for 14 days (The resident can be transferred out of the observation area to the main facility if they remain afebrile and without symptoms for 14 days after admission.)

**Considerations to halt admissions:**

The threshold for determining when admissions should be halted is dependent upon multiple factors and should be made in collaboration with the local health department, the North Carolina Division of Public Health, and the Division of Health Service Regulation.

- Facility is non-compliant with infection prevention practices.
- Facility does not have adequate staff, supplies (PPE), or space necessary to care for infected and non-infected COVID residents.