

Questions & Answers
Assisted Living/Residential Care/Adult Day Care Provider Call

Wednesday, June 21, 2022

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Disclaimer: Information and responses to questions provided during the Provider Calls are turned around quickly and may occasionally reference regulatory language from different regulatory sets. It is our goal to provide the most accurate information. Therefore, the Q&As are thoroughly researched following each call to ensure complete and accurate information is provided in written responses based on the correct regulatory sets and/or CDC guidance. Please contact LTC for any questions.

Links provided in the Q&A chat box or in Q&A can be located at the end of this document.

TOPIC:

1. Q: Exactly when would masks be recommended? Is it dependent on the hospital admission level in our county? Whether or not the community has an active case? If a person has had known exposure?

A: When considering broader masking in the facility, first consider if you have an outbreak going on in the facility. Is it confined to a certain hall or facility wide? This will help you determine where it would be beneficial to wear a mask. You may also want to look at the facility's risk assessment and at the risk for each individual resident. If you have an immunocompromised resident and you will be within six feet of them for > 15 minutes in a 24-hour period, you may want to wear a mask to protect them.

Consider where the visitors may be coming from. If they are coming from an area with a high incident of COVID-19, the facility may want to request them to wear a mask in the facility until they reach the resident's room they will be visiting. This will protect the other residents and staff as well.

The CDC has released a new Appendix for "Considerations for Implementing Broader Use of Masking in Healthcare Settings." They are utilizing a tiered approach which is basically what was just discussed. It also provides some new metrics to assist with determining when to wear masks related to COVID and other respiratory viruses, such as Influenza or Respiratory Syncytial Virus.

Masking recommendations, including those listed above, can be found in the CDC [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#). Refer to *Implement Source Control Measures* and *Implement Universal Use of Personal Protective Equipment for HCP* sections.

The *Assisted Living, Group Homes and Other Residential Care Settings (excluding nursing homes)* section reads in part, "In general, long-term care settings (excluding nursing homes) whose staff provide non-skilled personal care* similar to that provided by family members in the home (e.g., many assisted livings, group homes), should follow the [community prevention strategies based on COVID-19 hospital admission levels](#), similar to independent living, retirement communities or other non-healthcare congregate settings.

The new *Appendix: Considerations for Implementing Broader Use of Masking in Healthcare Settings* can be located toward the bottom of the page.

Links provided in the Q&A chat box or in Q&A:

CDC - IPC standards of care: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic -

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Flong-term-care.html

CDC - Link to the Maps for Hospitalizations: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#hospitalizations-landing>

CDC - US COVID-19 Hospitalizations, Deaths, Emergency Visits, and Test Positivity by Geographic Area: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-rate-county

OSDH Contacts:

HAI/AR Prevention Program (to provide administrator name and/or Infection Preventionist information):

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