



COVID-19 UPDATE AND INFORMATION

MARCH 9, 2020

PLEASE NOTE: Information is changing rapidly. This information was up-to-date as of 12pm, March 9, 2020.

Key Points from Friday, March 6, 2020 Impromptu Town Hall with the Maryland Department of Health

Please note, if you need to reach the Department of Health after hours or on weekends, use the DoH emergency call number and/or reach out to local health department.

DoH plans to have another call this week.

- Prevent introduction of virus into facility – screen all visitors
 - Some communities are having visitors complete and sign a screening form: travel, symptoms, contact with others
 - Restrict those people as appropriate upon screening
 - In a building with no documented cases they are not recommending taking temperatures of visitors who report no symptoms, but you can if you wish. Fever threshold is 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees centigrade.
- Prevent spread within the building
 - Observe personal hygiene – all people - handwashing, etc.
 - Monitor employees – if they have any symptoms ask to remain at home
 - If staff or residents are symptomatic and have epidemiological links to COVID-19, they can be tested at Emergency Department or primary care physician, but should call first
 - Recommend liberalizing sick leave policies and, specifically, not requiring a doctor's note upon return
 - CDC website has a list of cleaning products that work on COVID-19
- If a patient/ resident is suspected of having COVID -19 or has tested positive
 - Negative pressure room and healthcare workers with N95, gowned and gloved
 - If no negative pressure room, then private room with door closed
 - If no N95 – both patient and caregiver should wear surgical masks
 - Can also use industrial respirators
 - Reach out to OHCQ if shortage of PPE
 - Testing is OP and NP swabs and in viral transport media – refrigerate if needed
 - If a patient tests positive, should the building shut down activities and dining rooms?
 - Depends on how much person has been out of their room – DoH can help advise
 - If you have a person who has tested positive, should you close down admissions – call DoH to discuss.
 - Definition of Outbreak – is one person who has tested positive
 - No clear answers at this time as to length of time after exposure a person will test positive, or length of time virus will persist on surfaces – likely up to 8-9 days but depends on surface and temperature.

Links to COVID-19 Resources and Information

CDC Resources

CDC has a clearinghouse for COVID-19 information - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Some specific CDC resources of interest:

- Strategies to prevent spread in LTC facilities - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>
- Handwashing - <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>
- Healthcare facility preparation - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/steps-to-prepare.html>
- Infection control and prevention - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html

CMS Information

- Immediate changes to survey priorities - <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-12-allpdf.pdf-1>
- Guidance re: infection control and patient placement and hospital discharge - <https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfopolicy-and/guidance-infection-control-and-prevention-concerning-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-faqs-and>
- Guidance for infection control in nursing homes - <https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfopolicy-and/guidance-infection-control-and-prevention-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-nursing-homes>

Information from LeadingAge National

- COVID -19 summary information and links - <https://leadingage.org/covid19>
- For affordable housing - <https://www.leadingage.org/legislation/affordable-housing-providers-and-coronavirus>
- Free webinar and resources from AHCA - <https://educate.ahcancal.org/p/COVID19>
- Communication resources – families, residents, media –
- LeadingAge Sample Media Talking Points
 - [LeadingAge Sample Media Statement](#)
 - [LeadingAge Sample Letter to Employees](#)
 - [LeadingAge Sample Letter to Residents and Families](#)
- Lots of additional downloadable resource including sample letters, talking points, etc. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zueJop0HVN0rMP-QdbBIOh43ZDRxsGNRKZPyWsPftAM/edit#gid=0>