
This document provides reopening guidance to Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) that are skilled nursing facilities (SNF) or assisted living residences (ALR). Given the critical importance of preventing COVID-19 from entering or spreading within LTCFs, decisions on relaxing restrictions should be made with careful review of the number of facility-level and community cases, and in consultation with DC Health. Because information is still being gathered on how much the vaccine will affect reduction in disease occurrence, severity, and transmission, and how long it may be protective, residents and healthcare personnel should continue to follow all current infection prevention and control recommendations to protect themselves and others from COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Outbreak Initiation Phase</th>
<th>Controlled Outbreak Phase</th>
<th>No Outbreak Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>Confirmed outbreak (as defined in the March 10, 2021 Health Notice: “COVID-19 Outbreak Investigation and Reporting Requirements”) OR a suspected outbreak as determined by DC Health. AND Results from first round of facility-wide testing (i.e. outbreak testing) are still pending.</td>
<td>Confirmed outbreak (as defined in the March 10, 2021 Health Notice: “COVID-19 Outbreak Investigation and Reporting Requirements”) OR a suspected outbreak as determined by DC Health. AND Results from the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas (e.g., units) of the facility.</td>
<td>No new COVID-19 cases in residents or staff for 14 days or as determined by DC Health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment/Source Control</td>
<td>ALL residents should wear face masks or cloth face coverings for source control when: • Outside their room. • Within 6 feet of a roommate and not separated by a barrier such as a curtain.</td>
<td>Fully vaccinated residents should wear face masks or cloth face coverings for source control when: • Outside their room and not with a group of other fully vaccinated residents. • Anyone enters their room (for direct care or other services, such as cleaning). • Within 6 feet of an unvaccinated roommate and not separated by a barrier such as a curtain. Residents who are immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status) or NOT fully vaccinated should wear cloth face coverings when: • Outside their room. • Anyone enters their room (for direct care or other services, such as cleaning). • Within 6 feet of a roommate and not separated by a barrier such as a curtain.</td>
<td>Fully vaccinated residents should wear face masks or cloth face coverings for source control when: • Outside their room and not with a group of other fully vaccinated residents. • Within 6 feet of an unvaccinated roommate and not separated by a barrier such as a curtain. Residents who are immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status) or NOT fully vaccinated should wear cloth face coverings when: • Outside their room. • Anyone enters their room (for direct care or other services, such as cleaning). • Within 6 feet of a roommate and not separated by a barrier such as a curtain.</td>
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</table>

1 Fully Vaccinated: An individual is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine). More information can be found in Guidance for Quarantine after COVID-19 exposure at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.

2 Examples of such immunocompromising conditions likely include, but might not be limited to, receiving chemotherapy for cancer, hematologic malignancies, being within one year from receiving a hematopoietic stem cell or solid organ transplant, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count < 200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, and taking immunosuppressive medications (e.g., drugs to suppress rejection of transplanted organs or to treat rheumatologic conditions such as mycophenolate and rituximab, receipt of prednisone >20mg/day for more than 14 days.)
### Communal Dining

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| Limited communal dining is permitted. | Residents who meet the following criteria may eat in the same room:  
- Resident must not be from a unit-area experiencing an outbreak.  
- Resident never tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19.  
- Resident was previously positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 AND has completed the symptom-based or time-based clearance method |
| Fully vaccinated residents can participate in communal dining without the use of face masks for source control or social distancing provided no unvaccinated residents are present. |
| If unvaccinated or vaccinated immunocompromised residents are present, ALL residents must maintain social distancing and wear a facemask for source control when not actively eating. |
| Group size and dining space must allow for social distancing when required. |
| Residents who meet the following criteria must continue to be served in their rooms:  
- Currently isolated due to being positive for the virus that causes COVID-19  
- Currently quarantined due to exposure to or having symptoms of COVID-19 |
| PLEASE NOTE: Communal dining will increase the risk of COVID-19 spreading in your facility. Please be cautious by ensuring all appropriate testing and screening practices are in place before implementing any level of communal dining. Implement robust infection control measures (e.g., ensure ample hand hygiene access, ensure cleaning and disinfection of the dining area, etc.) and take measures that facilitate social distancing (e.g., remove chairs, space tables, stagger mealtimes, etc.). |

**Activity**

- Communal dining is restricted.
**Activity**

### Outbreak Initiation Phase

- Exclude all non-essential healthcare personnel from access to the facility or residence.
  - Consider telemedicine options as much as possible.

For full guidance on **Screening in a Healthcare Setting, Screening Tool Guidance, and Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Facilities**, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Non-essential medical personnel are determined by each individual facility. This determination should be made based on the medical needs of individual residents at that facility at that point in time.

### Controlled Containment Phase

- Allow entry of LIMITED numbers of non-essential healthcare personnel/contractors as determined necessary by the facility.
  - Consider telemedicine options as much as possible on the unit/area impacted by the outbreak.
  - All non-essential personnel must undergo screening and weekly testing (see staff testing section on page 7).
  - All non-essential personnel must follow the same personal protective equipment requirements as for staff.

For full guidance on **Screening in a Healthcare Setting, Screening Tool Guidance, and Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Facilities**, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Non-essential medical personnel are determined by each individual facility. This determination should be made based on the medical needs of individual residents at that facility at that point in time.

### No Outbreak Phase

- Allow entry of non-essential healthcare personnel/contractors.
  - Consider telemedicine options as much as possible.
  - All non-essential personnel must undergo screening and weekly testing (see staff testing section on page 7).
  - All non-essential personnel must follow the same personal protective equipment requirements as for staff.

For full guidance on **Screening in a Healthcare Setting, Screening Tool Guidance, and Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Facilities**, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Non-essential medical personnel are determined by each individual facility. This determination should be made based on the medical needs of individual residents at that facility at that point in time.

### Non-Essential Medical Providers

#### Avoid non-essential medical visits.

For essential medical visits outside the facility, ensure:
- Residents who must leave the facility wear their cloth face coverings (or a facemask) whenever leaving the facility.
- The receiving medical facility is notified about the facility outbreak prior to arrival.

#### Limit non-essential medical visits.

- **Residents who are not on a unit/area experiencing an outbreak** may leave the facility for routine/elective medical appointments with the following considerations:
  - Residents are not required to quarantine upon return, regardless of vaccination status, unless they were exposed to a person with confirmed COVID-19.
  - Residents who leave the facility for medical appointments AND engage in any other activity prior to returning to the facility must follow guidelines outlined in the "Resident Outings" section of this document.
  - Residents leaving the facility who require inpatient admission to another medical facility must follow the "Plan to manage new admissions" section of this document upon return.
- Residents with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not been cleared from isolation should only leave the facility for essential medical needs (i.e., dialysis), with prior notification.
- Travel for COVID-19 positive residents should be provided by medical transport, with prior notification.

#### Leaving for Medical Reasons

- Allow all non-essential medical visits.
  - Residents may leave the facility for routine/elective medical appointments with the following considerations:
    - Residents are not required to quarantine upon return, regardless of vaccination status, unless they were exposed to a person with confirmed COVID-19.
  - Residents leaving the facility who require inpatient admission to another medical facility must follow the "Plan to manage new admissions" section of this document upon return.
- Residents with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not been cleared from isolation should only leave the facility for essential medical needs (i.e., dialysis), with prior notification.
- Travel for COVID-19 positive residents should be provided by medical transport, with prior notification.
## Non-medical personal care services

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-medical personal care services are restricted.</td>
<td>Limited non-medical personal care services that are provided within the facility are permitted for residents on units/areas not experiencing an outbreak (see additional criteria below).</td>
<td>Non-medical personal care services that are provided within the facility are permitted.</td>
<td>For non-medical care services that occur outside the facility, see the “Outings” section on page 6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Strongly consider routine weekly testing of non-medical personal care service personnel who have not been fully vaccinated.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Residents who meet the following criteria should not undergo personal care services:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For non-medical care services that occur outside the facility, see the “Outings” section on page 6).</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Currently isolated due to COVID-19,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Permitted personal care services:</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Currently quarantined because of exposure to or exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Barbers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Screen all personnel at the beginning of their shift for fever and symptoms of COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Hairdressers</td>
<td></td>
<td>• For full guidance on Screening in a Healthcare Setting and Screening Tool Guidance, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Non-medical nail care (manicures, pedicures, acrylics, etc.)</td>
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<td>Ensure additional precautions are maintained: Removed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents who meet the following additional criteria should not undergo personal care services:</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Services are provided to only one resident at a time.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Currently isolated due to COVID-19.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Resident use of cloth face covering or face mask is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Currently quarantined because of exposure to or exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Non-medical personnel use of cloth face covering or face mask when providing personal care services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen all personnel at the beginning of their shift for fever and symptoms of COVID-19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Provision of infection control education and competency to personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• For full guidance on Screening in a Healthcare Setting and Screening Tool Guidance, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.</td>
<td></td>
<td>o Hand hygiene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure additional precautions are maintained:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>o Personal protective equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resident use of cloth face covering or face mask is required.</td>
<td></td>
<td>o Cleaning and disinfection (e.g., contact time).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Non-medical personnel use of cloth face covering or face mask when providing personal care services.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ensure cleaning and disinfection is performed between residents using products on EPA List N.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Activity | Outbreak Initiation Phase | Controlled Outbreak Phase | No Outbreak Phase
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On-Site Group Activities | Group activities are not permitted. | Limited on-site group activities can occur within the facility or the facility’s boundary. Residents who meet the following criteria may be physically present during group activities: 1. Resident must not be from a unit/area experiencing an outbreak. 2. Resident never tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. 3. Resident was previously positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 AND has completed the symptom-based or time-based clearance method. Fully vaccinated residents (who meet the above criteria) can participate in on-site group activities without the use of face masks for source control or social distancing provided no unvaccinated residents are present. If unvaccinated or vaccinated immunocompromised residents are present, ALL residents must maintain social distancing and wear a facemask for source control. Group size and activity space must allow for social distancing when required. Residents who meet the following criteria should not physically* be present for group activities: 1. Currently isolated due to COVID-19 2. Currently quarantined because of exposure to or exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. *Consider tele-participation. PLEASE NOTE: Group activities will increase the risk of COVID-19 spreading in your facility. Implement robust infection control measures (e.g., encourage residents to wear a cloth face covering or medical facemask, ensure ample hand hygiene access, ensure robust cleaning and disinfection of activity space and equipment, etc.) and take measures to facilitate social distancing (e.g., remove chairs, space tables, stagger activity start and end times, etc.). | On-site group activities can occur within the facility or the facility’s boundary. Residents who meet the following criteria may be physically present during group activities: 1. Resident never tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. 2. Resident was previously positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 AND has completed the symptom-based or time-based clearance method. Fully vaccinated residents can participate in on-site group activities without the use of face masks for source control or social distancing provided no unvaccinated residents are present. If unvaccinated or vaccinated immunocompromised residents are present, ALL residents must maintain social distancing and wear a facemask for source control. Group size and activity space must allow for social distancing when required. Residents who meet the following criteria should not physically* be present for group activities: 1. Currently isolated due to COVID-19 2. Currently quarantined because of exposure to or exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. *Consider tele-participation. PLEASE NOTE: Group activities will increase the risk of COVID-19 spreading in your facility. Implement robust infection control measures (e.g., encourage residents to wear a cloth face covering or medical facemask, ensure ample hand hygiene access, ensure robust cleaning and disinfection of activity space and equipment, etc.) and take measures to facilitate social distancing (e.g., remove chairs, space tables, stagger activity start and end times, etc.).
Resident outings and field trips are not permitted.

**Resident Outings/Field Trips**

- Residents who are not on a unit/area experiencing an outbreak may leave the facility for non-medical community activities with the following guidelines:
  - Residents and those accompanying them must:
    - Wear a mask during the entire outing (if possible) and maintain social distancing while outside the facility.
    - If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with others in the community while wearing a well-fitting face mask. If taking a walk outdoors and not in close contact with the community, source control (face mask) is not needed.
    - Fully vaccinated residents visiting friends or family that are also fully vaccinated, may choose to interact without source control or physical distancing.
    - Physical touch for an extended period of time with those either unvaccinated or of unknown vaccination status should be avoided.
    - Immunocompromised residents should wear a mask and maintain social distancing at all times, regardless of vaccination status.
    - Clean hands frequently, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
    - Keep a log of activities to assist in completing the risk assessment and allow for contact tracing if needed.
  - Residents and family members should be educated about potential risks of public settings and to avoid crowded, poorly ventilated areas.
  - Upon return:
    - All residents must be screened for signs & symptoms of COVID-19.
    - A resident risk assessment to evaluate the need for quarantine is required for:
      - All residents in facilities where less than 85% of the residents are fully vaccinated.
      - Residents who are not fully vaccinated and immunocompromised residents (regardless of vaccination status) in facilities where 85% or more of the residents are fully vaccinated.
    - If a risk assessment is completed, residents determined to have participated in a higher risk activity are required to quarantine.
- Residents may leave the facility for non-medical community activities with the following guidelines:
  - Residents and those accompanying them must:
    - Wear a mask during the entire outing (if possible) and maintain social distancing while outside the facility.
    - If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with others in the community while wearing a well-fitting face mask. If taking a walk outdoors and not in close contact with the community, source control (face mask) is not needed.
    - Fully vaccinated residents visiting friends or family that are also fully vaccinated, may choose to interact without source control or physical distancing.
    - Physical touch for an extended period of time with those either unvaccinated or of unknown vaccination status should be avoided.
    - Immunocompromised residents should wear a mask and maintain social distancing at all times, regardless of vaccination status.
    - Clean hands frequently, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
    - Keep a log of activities to assist in completing the risk assessment and allow for contact tracing if needed.
  - Residents and family members should be educated about potential risks of public settings and to avoid crowded, poorly ventilated areas.
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      - Residents who are not fully vaccinated and immunocompromised residents (regardless of vaccination status) in facilities where 85% or more of the residents are fully vaccinated.
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<tr>
<td>Testing residents</td>
<td>Test all residents in the facility, regardless of vaccination status (excluding those isolated due to positive COVID-19 status at time of specimen collection or positive within the previous 90 days) if:</td>
<td>Testing of all residents in the facility continues every 3-7 days, regardless of vaccination status (excluding those isolated due to positive COVID-19 status at time of specimen collection or positive within the previous 90 days)</td>
<td>Routine testing of all residents (for surveillance or outbreak purposes) is not required:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ≥1 case in a resident ≥ 14 days after admission/readmission; OR</td>
<td></td>
<td>• ≤2 staff test positive within a 14-day period AND 0 residents test positive within a 14-day period</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ≥3 cases in staff within 14 days; OR</td>
<td></td>
<td>• ≤2 cases in individuals (e.g. visitors, vendors) associated with a specific location/department within 14 days or epidemiological link within the facility. AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• ≥3 cases in individuals (e.g. visitors, vendors) associated with a specific location/department within 14 days or epidemiological link within the facility.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• After there have been two consecutive weeks (i.e. &gt;14 days) of no new test results in staff and residents from facility-wide outbreak testing (using an FDA approved PCR test)</td>
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<tr>
<td>As Needed (PRN)</td>
<td>Test any resident as needed who meet the following criteria:</td>
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<td>Test any resident as needed who meet the following criteria:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Showing possible signs or symptoms of COVID-19</td>
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<td>• Showing possible signs or symptoms of COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exposed to another resident, staff or visitor who was confirmed to have COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Those who are less than 90 days from discontinuation of isolation due to COVID-19 and develop new symptoms of COVID-19 should be evaluated by an HCP for testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Testing staff</td>
<td>All staff are PCR tested weekly, regardless of vaccination status (excluding those isolated due to positive COVID-19 status at time of specimen collection or those who are less than 90 days from discontinuation of isolation due to positive COVID-19 status).</td>
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<td>Weekly PCR testing of staff is required for:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Those who are not vaccinated</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Those who are partially vaccinated (&lt;2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or &lt;2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Those who are &gt;90 days from discontinuation of isolation due to having had a positive COVID-19 status AND partially or not vaccinated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLEASE NOTE:** The COVID-19 vaccine will not result in a false positive PCR or antigen test. An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 infection must follow the same guidelines as any other positive individual regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, all positives diagnostic tests, regardless of testing method, must be treated as true positives despite any subsequent negative test results obtained through any other testing method.

For more information please see:  
**Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Facilities** at [coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance),  
**PCR, Antigen, and Antibody Tests** at [coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance),  
See also: DC Health Notice SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing at [dchealth.dc.gov/page/health-notices](https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/health-notices)
Submit daily line list of residents and staff who are newly positive for COVID-19 to the Healthcare Facilities Investigation Team daily Monday-Friday, excluding holidays (no need to report residents who are transferred into your facility with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19)

Submit at least weekly data to National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

Skilled nursing facilities:
- Reporting requirements for nursing homes became effective on May 8, 2020 when CMS published their interim final rule with comment: govtinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-05-08/pdf/2020-09608.pdf

Assisted living residences:
- While ALFs do not have the same federal requirement to report to NSHN as nursing homes, their participation is encouraged.

Facilities must verify vaccination status before quarantine is deferred.
- Acceptable forms of verification include:
  - Documentation in the medical record,
  - CDC vaccination card.
- Verbal statement of vaccination must not be accepted.

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