



## COVID-19 Recommendations to Long Term Care Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities

Nursing homes and other long term care facilities are at the highest risk for COVID-19, since those congregate living facilities primarily serve older adults with underlying chronic medical conditions who are at increased risk of serious illness. The Unified Health Command, made up of Billings Clinic, St. Vincent Healthcare, RiverStone Health and Yellowstone County Disaster and Emergency Services, asks that all long term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities in Yellowstone county follow these recommendations:

1. **Ill visitors and healthcare personnel (HCP)** are most likely to introduce COVID-19 into a facility. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends aggressive visitor restrictions and enforcing sick leave policies for ill HCP, even before COVID-19 is identified in a facility.
2. **All residents** with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, should be **isolated immediately**. For complete guidance, please refer to the CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings [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](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)

You should plan to have the resident remain in isolation for:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, which is defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath and others); **and**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

**Residents with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms** should remain in isolation until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test. If symptoms develop follow the guidance as above.

3. **The UHC recommends residents with COVID-19 symptoms** be tested for COVID-19. For complete guidance, please refer to the CDC Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Suspected and Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>

**Staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should immediately** be excluded from work. We recommend that the facilities decide on the best way for their staff to get evaluated should they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Possibilities include: referral to their Primary Care Provider (PCP), evaluation at the Billings Clinic assessment clinic, or at RiverStone Health Clinic.

4. **Both residents and HCPs** will be prioritized for processing results.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides further Recommendations, Guidance and a Preparedness Checklist at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.htm>**

