

## Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities

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### What is COVID-19?

The novel coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China, and has spread rapidly throughout the world. Cases have been identified in multiple countries, including the United States.

It is believed it is spread through respiratory droplet transmission. Person-to-person spread is believed to occur among people in close contact (within ~ 6 feet) with each other. It is possible that a person may be able to be infected by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated by the virus, and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.

The incubation period may range from 2-14 days. The most commonly reported symptoms include:

- Fever (may be prolonged or intermittent)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### Prevent the introduction of germs into your facility

- Post signs at the entrance instructing visitors not to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection
- Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection
- Assess residents for symptoms of respiratory infection upon admission to the facility and implement appropriate infection prevention practices for incoming symptomatic residents

### Prevent the spread of germs within your facility

- Keep residents and employees informed
  - Describe what actions the facility is taking to protect them
  - Explain what they can do to be prepared and protect themselves and fellow residents
  - Monitor <https://www.rileycountyks.gov/1857/Novel-Coronavirus-2019-nCoV> for more information
- Monitor residents and employees for fever or respiratory symptoms
  - Restrict residents with fever or acute respiratory symptoms to their room; if they must leave the room for medically necessary procedures, have them wear a facemask
  - For care of residents with undiagnosed respiratory infection, use Standard, Contact and Droplet precautions, with eye protection unless suspected diagnosis required Airborne Precautions
- Support hand and respiratory hygiene
  - Ensure employees wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
  - Put alcohol-based hand rub in resident rooms
  - Ensure tissues are available

Provide infection control refresher training, and ensure the right supplies and PPE are available.

### Prevent the Spread of Germs between Facilities

- Notify facilities prior to transferring a resident with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a higher level of care
- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to RCHD and KDHE.