

COVID-19

March 17, 2020

Guidance and resources for long-term care facilities

There is an expanding global outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus, named COVID-19. Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is aggressively managing this outbreak in collaboration with other national, state and local partners. Our number one priority is protecting the health and safety of our community.

PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Effective March 12, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued a **public health order requiring all Colorado licensed or certified skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities and assisted living residences to restrict all visitors in order to protect the health of their residents and health care workers**. Long-term care facilities are at high risk for severe COVID-19 outbreaks. Ill healthcare personnel (HCP) or visitors are the most likely sources of introduction of COVID-19 into the facility. To protect this fragile population, **JCPH urges ALL long-term care facilities to immediately take aggressive actions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in your residents and staff**. If you have a resident with known or suspected COVID-19 infection, your local health jurisdiction may recommend you take additional actions.

For more information, please view the following guidance documents:

- **JCPH:** [Guidance for Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- **CDPHE:** [Public Health Order Restricting Visitors at Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, and Intermediate Care Facilities](#)
- **CDPHE:** [Interim Guidelines for Preparation and Response to COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Settings](#)
- **CDPHE:** [Guidelines for Prevention & Control of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Residences](#)
- **CDC:** [COVID-19 Information for Long-term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Poster: Stop the Spread of Germs
(available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))

Fact Sheet for Higher Risk Populations

Jefferson County Public Health

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

World Health Organization

ACTIONS TO TAKE NOW

- By order from public health, restrict visitation at your facility and offer alternative methods of visitation.
- Restrict non-essential personnel, including volunteers and non-essential consultant personnel, from entering the building.
- Screen all staff at the beginning of their shift for fever and respiratory symptoms.
- Actively monitor all residents (at least daily) for possible signs of respiratory infection.
- Put plans in place to limit movement and ensure social distancing.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE), and train staff on how to wear and dispose of PPE safely.

For more information:
www.jeffco.us/coronavirus