

My facility has a COVID-19 positive case. What do I do?

Long term care providers who have a confirmed case of COVID-19 should take the following immediate actions to prevent further spread to their residents and staff:

- ISOLATE** Place positive resident in an airborne isolation room with a private bathroom if available. If one isn't available, use a private room and keep the door closed.
- PROTECT** Consider implementing universal use of facemask for HCP while in the facility. Ideally, wear gown, gloves, goggles or face shield and an N95 or higher respirator for all resident care.
- If respirator supply is limited, wear facemasks for routine care and implement contingency capacity strategies as outlined by the CDC. Mask all residents, who can tolerate masks, who are symptomatic when providing direct care. If masks are limited or not tolerated use of a tissue to cover the nose and mouth is appropriate.
- CONTAIN** Restrict all residents to their room and encourage residents to remain in their rooms. If multiple cases are present restrict residents - to the extent possible - to their rooms except for medically necessary purposes.
- Close the center to new admissions if you have not already done so, except as needed to cohort ill individuals or staff.
- NOTIFY** Contact your regulatory agency and your local health department or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH.
- INFORM** Communicate to all staff, residents and family members. A sample letter is available at phca.org/COVID19. Identify a person who will be taking any media inquiries or calls.
- TRACK** Use the COVID-19 Symptomatic Line List Template - found at phca.org/COVID19 - or a similar tool to track symptomatic residents and staff. Remember that older adults may manifest symptoms of infection differently and that other symptomology should also be assessed at minimum, daily. Vital signs should include heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, pain and pulse oximetry. Facility staff should have a heightened awareness for any change in baseline in their residents.
- SCREEN** Begin active screening of all residents every 8 hours. Use the guidance for active screening found here: [PHCA COVID-19 Toolkit: Preparing for Positive Cases](#).
- ASSESS** Assess current supply of PPE, hand hygiene products, and environmental cleaning products. Report immediate needs to your [healthcare coalition](#).
- PLAN** Activate your incident command structure and identify an Incident Commander; post contact information in nursing station and be ready to share with DOH.