

COVID-19 Guidance for Nursing Home and Long-Term Care Facility Workers

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times. The agency will be issuing a series of alerts designed to keep workers safe.

In a nursing home or long-term care facility, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Screen workers and residents regularly for signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Send sick workers home or to seek medical care.
- Closely monitor and take additional precautions regarding employees and residents who may have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19.
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) on updating existing resident visitation policies.
- Ask visitors to inform the facility if they develop a fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days of their visit.
- Maintain at least six feet between workers, residents, and visitors, to the extent possible, including while workers perform their duties and during breaks.
- Stagger break periods to avoid crowding in breakrooms.
- Consider alternatives to in-person large group gatherings (e.g., staff meetings, resident activities).
- Always follow good infection prevention and control practices. Consult [OSHA's COVID-19 guidance for healthcare workers and employers](#).
- Provide handwashing facilities and alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol throughout facilities.
- Regularly clean and disinfect shared equipment and frequently touched surfaces in resident rooms, staff work stations, and common areas.
- Use hospital-grade cleaning chemicals approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from [List N](#) or EPA-approved, hospital grade cleaning chemicals that have label claims against the coronavirus.
- Ensure workers have and use any personal protective equipment (PPE) they need to perform their jobs safely.
- Continually monitor PPE stocks, burn rate, and supply chains. Develop a process for decontamination and reuse of PPE, such as face shields and goggles, as appropriate. Follow [CDC recommendations for optimization](#) of PPE supplies.
- Train workers about how to protect themselves and residents during the pandemic.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/coronavirus or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

OSHA issues alerts to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.