

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Infection Prevention and Control Preparation Guide for Long-Term Care and Other Residential Facilities in Kansas

April 27, 2020

Long-term care facilities in Kansas cannot and *should not* turn away new residents or refuse to readmit previous residents for fear of COVID-19.

While it is understood there is significant resource and staffing burden for facilities taking care of patients with COVID-19, it must also be emphasized that it is an inappropriate use of hospital resources hospitals to house patients who are no longer meeting inpatient criteria. It is critical that all Kansas facilities participate in the care of patients with COVID-19, whether they are caring for current residents who are ill but stable enough to remain in the facility or are receiving patients with COVID-19 no longer requiring hospitalization. Please help us all do our part to ensure safe and effective care for our residents in Kansas. If your facility medical provider suspects COVID-19, please report it to the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline via fax 877-427-7318.

This guidance is intended for use by infection preventionist, nursing personnel, and other relevant staff in long-term care facilities (LTCF).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented guidance that must be followed to focus on infection prevention and control in LTCFs for prevention of further spread of COVID-19. Prior to any confirmed COVID-19 cases present in a LTCF, adherence to current CMS requirements and CDC recommendations should be in effect with the aim of preventing infections. The primary focus for facilities without any active COVID-19 cases should be preparing for cases. As cases occur or are suspected in the community, the next focus should be surveillance to prevent importation into the facility. If and when cases occur in the facility, the focus should shift to containment. It is imperative that all facilities develop a realistic plan to care for COVID-19 patients within their facility. Drill your preparedness plan with frontline staff to ensure your facility knows how to respond when using the plan.

Please see our Long-term Care Facility COVID-19 Readiness Self-Assessment Checklist for a quick and easy way to assess the preparedness level of your facility regarding the content below.