



Long-Term Care & Adult Foster Home Outbreak Guidance

Main Line: (503) 846-3594 | Fax: (503) 846-3644 | HHSPHDCAPCD@washingtoncountyor.gov

Contact Washington County Public Health (WCPH) when residents or facility staff have *any* of the following:

- Case(s) or suspected outbreaks of reportable diseases.
- For gastrointestinal illnesses (e.g., vomiting and/or diarrhea):
 - Two or more residents or facility staff with GI illness within 3 days of each other in the same cohort (*i.e.*, unit, floor, shift).
- For respiratory illnesses (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, or positive test results):
 - One laboratory confirmed influenza or RSV case with others ill with respiratory illness in the same cohort, *or*
 - Two confirmed or presumptive cases of COVID-19 in a 7-day period in the same cohort.
- Chest x-ray confirmed pneumonia in three or more (≥ 3) residents.
- Unusually high absenteeism by staff complaining of related symptoms.
- High fevers *or* bloody stools.
- Overnight hospitalization with severe *or* similar symptoms, *and/or* deaths among residents and staff.

Information to include in the initial report to WCPH:

- Total number of floors, units, dining rooms, kitchens, wings, and/or buildings, *and*
- Total number of *affected* floors, units, dining rooms, kitchens, wings, and/or buildings, *and*
- Total number of residents, facility staff, and food handlers (if GI related) who are:
 - In your facility,
 - Ill or absent,
 - Living or working in the affected floors, units, wings and/or buildings, *and*
 - Floating between floors or units.
- Type of symptoms, onset dates, duration of illness, *and*
 - Note: Distinguish between GI and respiratory symptoms as early as possible!
- Any lab/test-confirmed illnesses, overnight hospitalizations, and/or deaths.

Prevent other residents and facility staff from becoming ill:

- Send anyone home who develops symptoms at work, isolate ill residents to their rooms, and exclude ill visitors:
 - Exclude staff and isolate residents with respiratory infections from work until 24-hours following resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - Exclude staff and isolate residents with GI infections until 48-hours following the resolution of symptoms. Seek care and testing.
- Increase handwashing with soap and water. **Hand sanitizer is not effective in GI outbreaks.** Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers frequently if soap and water are not available for respiratory outbreaks.
- Encourage use of PPE *and* ensure food handlers are wearing clean gloves when serving ready to eat foods.
- Follow [cleaning and disinfection guidance](#) for your facility.
- Provide appropriate antiviral treatment immediately to all eligible LTCF residents with influenza *or* COVID-19, *and* provide antiviral prophylaxis for eligible exposed LTCF residents during influenza outbreaks.

During an outbreak, regularly provide an updated line list and/or daily count of new illnesses/absenteeism:

- Regularly provide a line list and/or daily count of new illnesses/absenteeism. **For GI outbreaks**, WCPH requires information for the **first 10** ill residents and staff, after which only a daily count of additional ill/absent residents and staff and any hospitalizations is required. **A complete line list is required for respiratory outbreaks.**
- WCPH will provide disease-specific guidance, including cleaning and disinfection, preventing disease transmission, exclusions, testing, case definitions, education for staff and residents, recommendations for seeking medical care, notification of outbreak investigation closure, and other information as needed.

Long-Term Care & Adult Foster Home Facility Outbreak Guidance

Contact Washington County Public Health (WCPH) when residents or staff have *any* of the following:

- Case(s) or suspected outbreaks of reportable diseases
- Gastrointestinal illnesses (e.g., vomiting and/or diarrhea) in the same cohort
 - ≥ 2 residents or staff who are ill within 3 days of each other
- Respiratory illnesses (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, or positive test results) in the same cohort
 - 1 laboratory confirmed influenza case with others ill with respiratory illness
 - 1 laboratory confirmed RSV case with others ill with respiratory illness
 - 2 confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 cases in a 7-day period
- Unusually high absenteeism by staff complaining of related symptoms
- High fevers *or* bloody stool
- X-ray confirmed pneumonia in 3+ residents
- Overnight hospitalization with severe *or* similar symptoms, *and/or* deaths among residents and staff

Communicable Disease:
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Information to Include in the Initial Report to WCPH:

- Total number of residents and staff in your facility
- Total number of residents, staff, and food handlers (if GI related) who are:
 - In your facility
 - Ill or absent
 - In the affected cohort(s) (e.g., floor, unit, wing, buildings)
 - Floating between floors and units
- Type of symptoms, onset dates, and duration of illness
 - Distinguish between gastroenteritis and respiratory symptoms
- Any lab/test-confirmed illnesses, overnight hospitalizations, and/or deaths

Prevent Other Residents and Staff from Becoming Ill:

- Send home staff who develop symptoms at work
- Isolate ill residents to their rooms *and* exclude ill visitors
- Seek care and testing, as appropriate
- Increase handwashing with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers frequently if soap and water are not available.
 - **Hand sanitizer is not effective in GI outbreaks.**
- Follow cleaning and disinfection guidance for your facility

Exclusion Recommendations for Residents and Staff:

- **24-hours** following resolution of **respiratory symptoms** without fever-reducing medications
- **48-hours** following the resolution of **GI symptoms**

