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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

OCHCA Criteria for Closure and Reopening to Admissions in Facilities with COVID 8-5-21

After a 5 month period without outbreaks, OC SNFs are now experiencing outbreaks again. Although to date the outbreaks have been smaller than in the past, many of the individuals involved were fully vaccinated, with episodes of transmission from fully vaccinated staff to fully vaccinated residents. The predominant variant currently, the delta variant, is estimated to be twice as contagious as prior forms of the virus, and to cause high levels of virus even in vaccinated people. Given this information, facilities will be asked to temporarily close if any resident is diagnosed with COVID while in the facility (accepting COVID+ from other facilities into an established red zone does not affect admission status).

Closure to Admissions:

1. One resident infected: temporary closure of affected unit (e.g., green, yellow, or SAU) until baseline and 5-7 day screening of all staff and patients is completed. Testing of patients may be restricted (based on HCA advice) to only those on affected unit if patient not infected at facility and in facility for very brief time. Can reopen after second screening if no additional resident cases identified and source of transmission is identified and contained, but need to repeat screening of close resident contacts (at a minimum) approximately 10-14 days after last exposure.
2. Two or more residents infected: closed until reopening criteria (described below) are met.

During COVID Outbreak:

1. May readmit prior residents who were hospitalized for non-COVID reasons, as long as patient and family aware of risk of exposure.
2. May admit COVID+ patients to facility if space and staffing sufficient in COVID unit.

Criteria for reopening to new admissions in an outbreak setting (must meet both):

1. At least three (baseline, 5-7 days and 10-14 days) or more rounds of screening of all COVID-negative residents/patients in the facility have been completed, and last two rounds have identified no new cases.
2. It has been at least 11 days since last resident/patient case was identified.

NOTE: facilities may not reopen to admissions until written permission (either e-mail or reopening letter) received from PHN Liaison or other member of LTCF team.