



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6128
SANTA ANA, CA 92706-0128
PHONE: (714) 834-8180
FAX: (714) 564-4050

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

OCHCA Criteria for Closure and Reopening to Admissions in Facilities with COVID 11-9-21

Outbreaks in SNFs over the last few weeks have been larger than those seen earlier in the delta wave. Most of those infected have been fully vaccinated, and although the mortality rate from COVID in those fully vaccinated is lower than in those not fully vaccinated, it is still substantial (about 7.5% in fully vaccinated). The time lapse since initial vaccination is getting longer, so fully vaccinated resident and staff seem to be more susceptible to infection now than earlier in the wave. Considering this information, facilities will be asked to temporarily close to new admissions if any resident is diagnosed with COVID while in the facility, even if resident was not likely infected due to exposure in facility (e.g., admitted with incubating COVID).

Closure to Admissions (except those below):

1. One resident infected: temporary closure (of whole facility or section of facility, depending on situation) 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 in affected section (e.g. SAU or SNF) if patient not infected at facility and in facility for very brief time. May reopen to admitting fully vaccinated residents sooner in certain circumstances, but need to continue screening as recommended by CDPH.
2. Two or more residents infected: closed until reopening criteria (described below) are met.

Approved Admissions 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.
3. May admit patients who had COVID within last 90 days and have recovered (out of isolation).

Criteria for reopening to new admissions in an outbreak setting:

1. At least two consecutive rounds of screening of all COVID-negative residents/patients in the facility have been completed and resulted negative.
2. Last round of testing should be PCR and occur at least 8-9 days after last identified resident infection.
3. Although facilities can be cleared to admit after these consecutive negative rounds of testing, further testing may be necessary to be compliant with CDPH guidance.

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.