

PREPARING FOR CARE DURING THIS PANDEMIC

Facilities must have a written plan to guide the actions of employees should a resident be determined to be COVID-19 positive or should a resident exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. The plan should include isolation and staffing directives, appropriate PPE use, and guidance on the care and monitoring of the COVID-19 positive or symptomatic resident. The plan should list names and phone numbers for those persons or agencies that must be notified. An inventory of all available PPE should be maintained at all times as well as a list of names and contact numbers of resources for appropriate PPE.

The **Guidance to Protect Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities (Upon Readmission and Current Stay)**, updated August 6, 2020, gives clear direction and information regarding **Best Practices for Long-Term Care Facilities (Based on CMS Guidance)** (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). This document should be thoroughly reviewed by leadership staff. Table 1 in this document outlines the appropriate PPE recommended for the level of care being completed.

Adult Foster Care	N95 Respirator (or equivalent or higher-level respirator)	Surgical Mask	Cloth Face Covering	Eye Protection (Goggles or Face Shield)	Isolation Gown	Sterile Gloves	Gloves
COVID-19 Transmission-based precautions (Standard, Droplet, Contact)	Y	Y ^b	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Daily resident care (Standard Precautions)	Y	Y ^b	N	Y ^{c,d}	Y ^c	N	Y ^e
Upon entering the facility	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N

Notes:

- ^a Other respirators may include other disposable filtering facepiece respirators, powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs), or elastomeric respirators
- ^b If a respirator is not available
- ^c During care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions
- ^d In facilities located in areas with moderate to substantial community transmission
- ^e During care activities where contact with blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials may occur

The CDC is very clear that N95 respirators offer better protection from COVID-19 than a KN95 or a surgical mask. MIOSHA has also been very clear that we must follow the CDC guidelines and recommendations.

Based on CDC and MIOSHA guidance It is strongly recommended that providers understand the requirements for staff to use N95 respirators, gloves, gowns, and face shields in the event of a COVID positive resident or a resident that is suspected of having COVID-19. MIOSHA guidance states that the employer is required to provide respiratory protection and a Respiratory Protection Program in the event of a resident being diagnosed or suspected of having COVID19.

Due to the shortage of PPE including N-95 respirators, you may have difficulty finding N95 respirators. It is best to plan ahead and obtain a supply needed to cover the needs of all staff for at least a 14-day period. If you are unable to obtain a supply of N95 respirators, or should you run out and are unable to obtain more quickly the next best option is to use KN95 masks that strap behind the head and is tight fitting like the N95. Staff should be advised that they may not be as well protected with this option when working with a COVID positive individual. KN95 masks only should be used when you have exhausted your supply of N95 masks and are unable to obtain more. This should be documented in your Respiratory Protection Program. The need for possible use of the

KN95 mask should also be included in your Respiratory Protection Program if you foresee a need to utilize them.

A surgical mask will not provide staff with adequate protection when working with a COVID positive individual and should be used only as a last resort.

Respiratory Response Program

Per CDC, MDHHS and MIOSHA guidance an N95 is to be worn by all staff when there is a COVID-19 positive client in the home.

1) Use of N95 masks

a) Employees will also need to be fit tested and have a medical evaluation. The medical questionnaire must be completed by each staff and reviewed by a medical professional. This can be done by staff's PCP or your agency Medical Provider. The Health Department may be able to assist you with fit testing. We are having 2 of our nurses trained in the near future, but due to time constraints they most likely would not be able to assist everyone.

b) Training must be provided. PPE training is completed along with the fit testing. We recommend staff watch the CDC Video on Donning and Doffing and then practice by going through the motions without using PPE since it is in short supply. This training should be completed for all staff regardless of need for N95 masks.

c) Documentation of your Respiratory Protection Program must be kept on file.

Documents should include:

1. Sign in sheet for Respiratory Protection Program Training
2. Employee's Medical Evaluation
3. Record of Employee's fit test

CDC Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/group-homes.html>

LTC Guidance to Protect Residents Final – Provides PPE Consideration table

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/LTC_Guidance_to_Protect_Residents_Final_4-10_686874_7.pdf

Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 –Requirements for residential care facilities

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-542860--,00.html

Grant for DCW Infection Control Training

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163-542955--,00.html>

MIOSHA COVID-19 Workplace Requirements for All Employers

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/leo/leo_miosha_c19_workplace_guidelines_employer_690397_7.pdf

MIOSHA Sample Respiratory Protection Program

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fdocuments%2Flara%2Flara_miosha_cetsp05_409580_7.doc

Rapid Response Staffing in Long-Term Care Facilities

Information updated – 10-30-20

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/RRS_Guidance_for_LTC_Facilities_Program_Updates_Oct_2020_FINAL_706611_7.pdf

MDHHS expansion document

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339--539674--,00.html>

MDHHS launch document

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_71692_71696-533608--,00.html

MI Mask Aid

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-100997_100998_101868_102207---,00.html

CDC Video provided by MDHHS – Donning and Doffing PPE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYTATw9yav4&feature=youtu.be&deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM27363