



COVID-19 Long Term Care Setting Toolkit for Local Health Departments

This toolkit is designed to help local health departments as they work with long-term care (LTC) settings to prepare for and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). For purposes of this document, a long-term care setting includes adult and family care homes, nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and residential mental health facilities. Even one case of COVID-19 in a LTC setting is a serious public health concern and needs immediate investigation and implementation of infection control measures by the facility and the local health department (LHD).

We recommend that LHD communicable disease staff read the [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities](#). Working with LTC settings now to assess infection control practices now may help prevent a future outbreak of COVID-19.

Toolkit contents:

1. [“What to Expect: LHD Response to COVID-19 Cases in Long Term Care Settings”](#) lists the steps that the LHD and facility will take in response to COVID-19 cases in a LTC setting.
2. [“LTC COVID-19 Outbreak Admission Considerations”](#) describes points for facilities to consider when accepting a patient for admission/readmission to the facility during an outbreak.
3. [“Infection Control Assessment and Response \(ICAR\) Visit Basics”](#) provides information about how to conduct ICAR visits.
4. [“LTC Infection Control Assessment Tool”](#) describes how to assess infection control practices in a LTC setting. We recommend assessing infection control practices before any COVID-19 cases occur to prevent potential outbreaks.
5. [“Emergency Staffing and Resource Requests”](#) outlines the process through which LTC settings may request resources and temporary staff, and provides staffing shortage mitigation strategies.

If you have any questions about the materials in this toolkit, please contact the Communicable Disease Branch Epidemiologist on Call at 919-733-3419.