



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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## HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF)

From: Ron. W. Chapman  
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Date: March 4, 2020

Subject: COVID-19

### Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in LTCF

As of March 3, 2020, there were a total of 60 cases reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) within the United States, 48 of these were among repatriated persons from high-risk settings. The other 15 cases were diagnosed in the United States. However, with expansion of testing capability this week, there may be additional cases being identified in each state at the state level that have yet to be confirmed by the CDC. There have been more instances of COVID-19 community spread in the United States. There have been six deaths due to COVID-19 in the United States, all in the state of Washington. Five of those six deaths occurred in one skilled nursing residential facility.

Yolo County Health and Human Services (HHSA) especially encourages skilled nursing and long term care facilities (LTCF) be on heightened alert and be more stringent in implementing respiratory infection prevention protocols before the virus is identified in Yolo County, as there is evidence that this population is especially susceptible to the severe effects of COVID-19.

The general strategies CDC recommends to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in LTCF are the same strategies these facilities use every day to detect and prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses like influenza, rhinoviruses, etc.

***Yolo County Public Health recommends that LTCF's implement facility-specific Infection Control practices around droplet precautions and respiratory illness precautions.***

Prevent the introduction of respiratory pathogens INTO your facility:

- Post signs at the entrance instructing visitors not to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.

#### Davis

600 A Street  
Davis, CA 95616  
Mental Health (530) 757-5530

#### West Sacramento

500 Jefferson Boulevard  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
Service Center (916) 375-6200  
Mental Health (916) 375-6350  
Public Health (916) 375-6380

#### Winters

111 East Grant Avenue  
Winters, CA 95694  
Service Center (530) 406-4444

#### Woodland

25 & 137 N. Cottonwood Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
Service Center (530) 661-2750  
Mental Health (530) 666-8630  
Public Health (530) 666-8645

- Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Assess individuals for symptoms of respiratory infection upon admission to the facility and implement appropriate infection prevention practices for incoming symptomatic residents.

Prevent the spread of respiratory pathogens WITHIN your facility:

- Keep residents and employees informed.
- Monitor residents and employees for fever or respiratory symptoms.
  - Restrict residents with fever or acute respiratory symptoms to their room.
  - In general, for care of residents with undiagnosed respiratory infection use **Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions** with eye protection unless suspected diagnosis requires Airborne Precautions (e.g., tuberculosis).
- Encourage hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cough etiquette by residents, visitors, and employees.
- Provide the right supplies to ensure easy and correct use of PPE.
  - Post signs on the door or wall outside of the resident room that clearly describe the type of precautions needed and required PPE.

Prevent the spread of respiratory germs BETWEEN facilities

- Notify facilities prior to transferring a resident with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a higher level of care.
- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in residents and employees to Yolo County Public Health.

According to CDC, close contact is defined as:

- being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case.
- Or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on).

If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE, criteria for PUI consideration are met.

Additional information is available in CDC's updated guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

To report cases of Communicable/Infectious Disease at your facility, please have your Nursing Director or Infection Control/Infection Prevention Officer contact the Yolo County HHSA Infectious Disease Program at 530-666-8670 during business hours, and the duty officer at (530) 321-3620 after hours.

**To report suspected cases of COVID-19, please have your Nursing Director or Infection Control/Infection Prevention Officer contact Yolo County HHSA COVID-19 Disease Control Lead at (530) 681-0409 during business hours, and the duty officer at (530) 321-3620 after hours.**

**Resources:**

For infection control issues, please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance documents, All-Facilities Letters (AFLs), and CDPH Guidance documents and CAHANs.

AFL: Infection Control Recommendations for Facilities with Suspect Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Patients: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-15.pdf>

For information on evaluating and reporting persons under investigation (PUI) please consult CDC's guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>