



Preventing COVID-19 in Nursing Homes

Universal Symptom and Temperature Screening Protocol for Staff

Guidance

- Only essential nursing home staff should be entering the facility (e.g. no volunteers, no students or trainees). All staff must screen on entry for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 (see **Screening Checklist** below). Any ill staff member should be sent home.
- Entry should be limited to one entrance point where screening can be assured. Signage should be posted at this entrance and in common areas (nursing station, break room) to remind staff about symptoms (see sample signage).
- A touchless thermometer should be used to screen staff upon arrival to work
- Staff may undergo repeat screening if staff exit and re-enter the facility, OR a tracking system can be used (e.g. daily sticker or tag for badge, written log)
- If a household member develops COVID-19, public health recommends all household contacts remain home until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

Speak Up to Save Lives!

- **Working while sick can spread COVID-19 in the nursing home and risk lives.**
- Staff must feel comfortable reporting symptoms. Speaking up can directly save lives.
- Ensure sick leave policies are in place. Staff **MUST NOT** report to work when sick.

Screening Checklist

Do you live with someone who may be ill with COVID-19?		If <u>YES</u>, Contact your infection prevention team to determine if you are able to work.	
Symptom	Circle (Yes/No)		<p>If <u>YES</u> to <u>ANY</u> of these symptoms <u>DO NOT</u> proceed to work. Contact your supervisor immediately.</p> <p>If you develop severe symptoms such as confusion, severe dehydration, worsening difficulty breathing, go to the nearest Emergency Room.</p>
Fever (99+F)	No	Yes	
Chills	No	Yes	
Muscle aches	No	Yes	
Cough (new)	No	Yes	
Shortness of breath (new)	No	Yes	
Unexpected fatigue	No	Yes	
Sore throat	No	Yes	
Loss of taste or smell	No	Yes	
Headache	No	Yes	
Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea	No	Yes	
Other cold symptoms	No	Yes	
If <u>NO</u> for <u>ALL</u> symptoms → You are cleared to work.			