

Preventing the spread of COVID-19: When should residents be quarantined after returning to the facility?

It is best practice to quarantine residents after returning to a long-term care facility; however, this is not always feasible. Use this document to help you consider whether a long-term care facility resident should be quarantined after returning to the facility from an appointment or activity. Assessing the risk of the activity can help you make quarantine decisions that promote the safety and wellbeing of all residents. When deciding whether to quarantine, consider the following, using the examples of high and low risk situations provided as a guide to interpret your unique situations. These considerations are only for returning residents. New admissions should still be quarantined for 14 days.

Trip

Transportation

- How will the resident be getting there?
- Will there be other people in the vehicle? Do you know if they have been following guidelines (ex. wearing a facemask)?

Environment

- What is the location doing to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission?
- Will the resident be sharing space with other people? Do you know if they have been following guidelines?

Duration and Frequency

- How long is the appointment or activity?
- How frequently is the resident going?
- How long is the drive?

High transmission risk example: A four-hour long appointment in a shared room with other patients, via bus.
Low transmission risk example: A 30-minute appointment in a private room, via facility-organized private car.

Individual

Risk

- Does the resident have comorbidities or increased likelihood of exposure due to other activities or movement?

Interaction with Other Residents

- Is the resident sharing space or interacting frequently with residents at high risk for severe outcomes of infection?

Unit

- Is this resident in memory care or other specialty care unit?
- Is there an increased risk to others after returning to their unit?

High concern example: A resident with COPD, living in memory care with a roommate who has asthma.
Low concern example: A resident with no underlying conditions living in a private apartment.

Community

Community Transmission

- Is there widespread ongoing transmission in the region or community?

Re-opening Phase

- More Vermont guidance will be coming soon about re-opening phases.

High transmission risk example: Widespread community transmission and a facility-wide outbreak.
Low transmission risk example: Low level community transmission and a facility in phase 2 of reopening.