



Virus Safeguards for Resident Outings

The very real and daunting risks of COVID-19 have prompted skilled nursing and personal care home facilities to enact safety measures beyond additional testing. The following steps have been added to safeguard against the spread of the virus from residents who leave the facility routinely.

These are in accordance with guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) regarding COVID-19 for Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Residences and Private Intermediate Care Facilities.

Outings for Medical Reasons

Residents should continue to receive necessary medical care that is needed outside of the facility. Staff should be aware of residents who go off-site for outpatient medical care, including dialysis, and remain alert for notification of any known exposures.

If the resident chooses to have a family member or friend transport them to the appointment, the following must be in place:

- No known risk of COVID-19 transmission in keeping with the facility's current screening and testing protocols
- In all instances, the resident and those involved in the transportation should adhere to appropriate infection prevention and control protocols including universal masking, social distancing, hand hygiene
- If a mask can be tolerated, the resident should wear a mask during transport and the driver should also wear a mask
- Social distancing should be maintained while outside of the facility
- Hand hygiene should be practiced while out of the facility

All residents will be screened upon return to the facility. In the event of an exposure or new onset of symptoms, the following should occur, but not be limited to:

- Physician and Family notification
- Transfer resident to the yellow zone, in full precautions
- Complete CoV-2 testing per policy and procedure
- Complete case identification
- Complete contact tracing
- Observe for symptoms
- Provide necessary medical care

Outings for Non-Medical Reasons

Each resident / scenario will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for those who choose to participate in outings with family members / friends for non-medical reasons. All participants must maintain masking, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings and visiting areas with substantial community spread.

Safety precautions to safeguard the spread of the virus from residents who leave the facility are based on the following:

- Infection prevention and control precautions (universal masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing)
- The resident's level of vulnerability due to chronic or immunocompromised conditions and
- Duration of the outing, including whether it includes an overnight stay or vacation to another state
- Factors of a high-risk outing / exposure or highly suspected include:
- Substantial community spread in the area(s) visited ($\geq 10\%$ county positivity rate) **AND**
- A gathering of more than 10 people **AND**
 - Failure of consistent universal masking for the duration of the outing **OR**
 - Failure of physical distancing from resident (example: hugging or riding in a vehicle with unmasked persons).

If the outing is determined to meet high-risk criteria, the facility will, upon the resident's return, implement the following:

- Place the resident in the yellow zone, in full precautions, for minimum of 14 days
- Obtain physician order for COVID-19 testing
- Perform CoV-2 testing 2-3 days following the outing
- Implement cohorting policy and procedures in the event the resident tests positive for COVID-19
- Maintain transmission-based precautions until CDC and DOH criteria are met to discontinue precautions