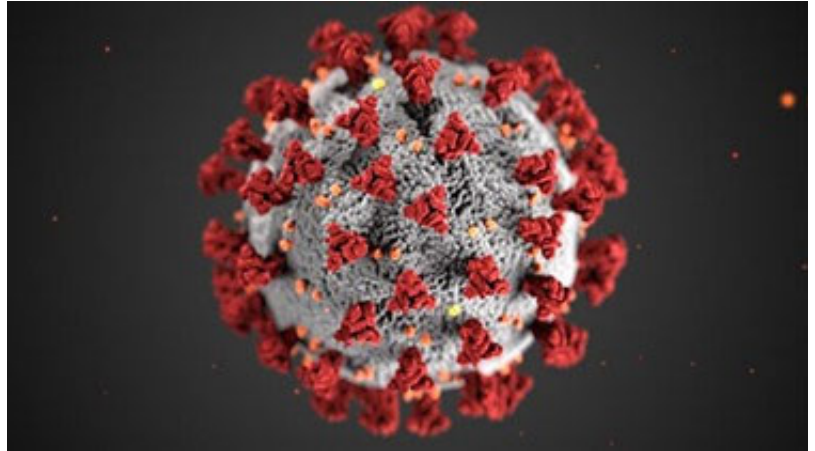


COVID-19 Healthcare Quality and Worker Safety Information

Testing and Management Considerations for Nursing Home Residents with Acute Respiratory Illness Symptoms when SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza Viruses are Co-circulating — [The following practices](#) should be considered when SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza viruses are found to be co-circulating based upon local public health surveillance data and testing at local healthcare facilities. While these considerations are specific to care of residents residing in nursing homes, some practices could be adapted for use in other long-term care settings (e.g. assisted living facilities).

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SARS-CoV-2 Reinfection Criteria — CDC has released new web content that outlines criteria on COVID-19 cases that should be assessed for suspected reinfection with SARS-CoV-2. The criteria outlines standards that laboratory tests should meet when evaluating specimens for reinfection. CDC also issued a protocol intended to provide state and local health departments with a standardized framework and toolkit for investigating suspected cases of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection.

Please visit the new reinfection webpages to learn more:

- [Common Investigation Protocol for Investigating Suspected SARS-CoV-2 Reinfection](#)
- [Investigative Criteria for Suspected Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Reinfection \(ICR\)](#)
- [Reinfection with COVID-19](#) (consumer website companion)

Our understanding of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection is evolving. This initial criteria and protocol will be refined as more evidence emerges, with the goal of creating a standardized case definition of reinfection.

Toolkit for Healthcare Providers — [Guidance and tools](#) to help clinicians make decisions, protect patients and employees, and communicate with their communities.

Updated COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure Sector Response Planning — This guidance has been updated to include the following:

- Public health recommendations have been updated to accommodate new scientific evidence, evolving epidemiology, and the need to simplify the assessment of risk. Updated recommendations are based on:

- Growing evidence of transmission risk from infected people without symptoms (asymptomatic) or before the onset of recognized symptoms (pre-symptomatic);
 - Ongoing community transmission in many parts of the country;
 - A need to communicate effectively to the general public;
 - Continued focus on reducing transmission through social distancing and other [personal prevention strategies](#).
- Combined “Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19” and “COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure Sector Response Planning” documents to consolidate and clarify this information.
 - Clarified that reintegrating exposed critical infrastructure workers who are not experiencing any symptoms and have not tested positive back into onsite operations should be used as a last resort and only in limited circumstances, such as when cessation of operation of a facility may cause serious harm or danger to public health or safety.

To learn more, please visit: [Critical Infrastructure Sector Response Planning](#)

Care for Breastfeeding Women — This guidance has been updated to include the following:

- Update considerations for breastfeeding for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Reflect new evidence suggesting that breast milk is not a likely source of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
- Reflect new evidence that SARS-CoV-2 experimentally added to breast milk is inactivated via pasteurization.
- Add considerations for infection prevention and control measures for lactation services.

To learn more, please visit: [Care for Breastfeeding Women](#)

Reminders and Resources

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) — Characterization of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities — 39 States, October 2020 — Although skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have federal COVID-19 reporting requirements, national surveillance data are less readily available for other types of LTCFs, such as assisted living facilities (ALFs) and those providing similar residential care. However, many state and territorial health departments publicly report COVID-19 surveillance data across various types of LTCFs. These data were systematically retrieved from health department websites to characterize COVID-19 cases and deaths in ALF residents and staff members. You can learn more here: [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

COVID-19 Partner Update Call: Resilience and Mental Health for the Holidays – Tips and Tools for Operating your Business – Monday, November 30, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) — Dr. Cliff McDonald, Acting Chief Medical Officer, and Dr. Kathleen Ethier, Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health will present. Michelle Putnam, Deputy for Partnerships and Risk Management will moderate. Dr. McDonald will share updates on CDC’s COVID-19 response, including the latest scientific information and what everyone should know about protecting themselves and others. In addition, Dr. Ethier will discuss strategies for building resilience and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic and the holiday season. [Click here to register](#)

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) — Implementation of a Pooled Surveillance Testing Program for Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections on a College Campus — Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, August 2–October 11, 2020 — All students at Duke University, a private research university in Durham, North Carolina, signed the Duke Compact, agreeing to observe mandatory masking, social distancing, and participation in entry and surveillance testing. The university implemented a five-to-one pooled testing program for SARS-CoV-2 using a quantitative, in-house, laboratory-developed, real-time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test. Pooling of specimens to enable large-scale testing while minimizing use of reagents was pioneered during the human immunodeficiency virus pandemic. You can learn more here: [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)



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