



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

COVID-19 Omicron | Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF) – Reporting, Vaccine, Screening and Testing, and Prevention

Background

The purpose of this Health Advisory is to urge long-term care facilities in Marin County to prepare for an Omicron-driven surge in COVID activity and to take action to prevent facility outbreaks.

Daily new cases of COVID-19 reported in Marin continue to exceed record highs. Yesterday, 173 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Marin County. This is consistent with an Omicron-driven transmission pattern. Marin County Public Health estimates that the Omicron variant is now causing nearly all new local infections.

Yesterday, the State Public Health Officer issued an [order](#) requiring all workers who provide services or work in Adult and Senior Care Facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), all in-home direct care services workers, in-home supportive services (IHSS) providers, and all hospice workers to receive a COVID-19 booster no later than February 1, 2022. The order also requires facilities to implement weekly testing for all booster-eligible workers who have not yet received their booster by December 27, 2021.

Long term care facilities (LTCF) should immediately review infection prevention policies and procedures and implement preventive measures to reduce the risk of COVID transmission and to prevent Omicron-related outbreaks.

Actions Requested of Facility Administrators and Medical Directors

Reporting

1. Review outbreak protocol with staff, including reporting requirements, isolation and quarantine of confirmed / suspected cases and patients under investigation (PUI), response-based testing protocols and cohort zones (Green, Yellow, and Red Zones).
2. Immediately call Marin County Public Health at (415) 473-3455 or email LTCFCOVIDReport@MarinCounty.org to report:
 - ≥1 probable or confirmed COVID-19 case in a resident, staff, vendor or visitor; or,
 - ≥3 cases of acute illness compatible with COVID-19 in residents and/or staff with onset within a 72-hour period.
3. During an outbreak (≥1 facility-acquired COVID-19 case in a resident), submit line list with staff/resident test results to LTCFCOVIDReport@MarinCounty.org no less than 2 times per week.

Vaccine

1. Review the amended state [order](#) and implement booster [requirements](#) as ordered.
2. Advise all staff and vendors of updated booster requirements.
3. Verify and keep records of vaccination status and test results, includes [mandatory flu vaccine](#).
4. Update [Vaccination Tracking Survey](#) no later than February 4, 2022.
5. Require proof of COVID-19 booster vaccines for all eligible vendors and visitors.

Screening and Testing

1. Review the amended state [order](#) and implement testing [requirements](#) as ordered.
2. Following the state order is a minimum requirement; Marin County Public Health recommends daily antigen testing for all unboosted staff, vendors, and visitors, and weekly antigen testing for boosted staff and vaccine verified vendors.
3. Implement daily symptom screening.
4. Unboosted residents returning to the facility should have daily antigen testing for 5 days. Boosted residents returning to the facility should have an antigen test on day 5 or sooner if they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
5. Test boosted residents 3 – 5 days after visit with boosted family and friends.

Prevention

1. Review and ensure adherence to July 26, 2021 State Public Health Officer [Order](#) for Health Care Worker Protections in High-Risk Settings.
2. Review appropriate [Infection Prevention Tools](#) with all staff.
3. Review proper use, handling, and implementation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with staff
 - a. Ensure access to surgical masks and hand hygiene stations.
 - b. Strictly adhere to current [CDPH Masking Guidance](#).
4. Require respirator use for unboosted workers when engaged in direct patient / resident care.
5. Limit visitation to family and friends with proof of a booster shot and negative antigen test on day of visit.
 - a. Whenever feasible, arrange for outdoor visits.
 - b. If not practicable, use well-ventilated spaces for indoor visits and require visitors to wear a KN95 or N95 mask.
6. Facilitate and [encourage alternative methods for visitation](#) (e.g., video conferencing) and communication with the resident.