



Department
of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director



Department of
Aging

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Ursel J. McElroy, Director

March 2, 2020

Ohio Long-Term Care Facility Administrators,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new guidance for long-term care facilities to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) within their facilities (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>). While there have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ohio, we must be prepared for this possibility and take steps to prevent the spread of the disease, including in long-term care facilities.

The general strategies that CDC recommends to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities are the same strategies you use every day to detect and prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses like influenza. CDC's recommended strategies fall into three categories:

- Prevent the introduction of respiratory germs into your facility;
- Prevent the spread of respiratory germs within your facility; and
- Prevent the spread of respiratory germs between facilities.

CDC's guidance recommends posting signs inside long-term care facilities that provide instruction on preventing the spread of germs by hand-washing, exercising cough etiquette, and other facility-specific actions. CDC's guidance also contains a link to a free online CDC course entitled, "The Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training" (<https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/training.html>) which includes tips and resources for facilities and employees to use.

In addition to CDC, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Aging are working together to address this issue. We are offering the attached flyers for your consideration, and we will send you additional COVID-19 updates in the future, as warranted. Meanwhile, more information about COVID-19 and the latest developments are available at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Survey and Certification at (614) 752-9524.

Sincerely,

Amy Acton, MD, MPH
Director
Ohio Department of Health

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