

Office of the Health Officer 8930 Stanford Blvd | Columbia, MD 21045 410.313.6300 - Voice/Relay 410.313.6303 - Fax 1.866.313.6300 - Toll Free

Maura J. Rossman, M.D., Health Officer

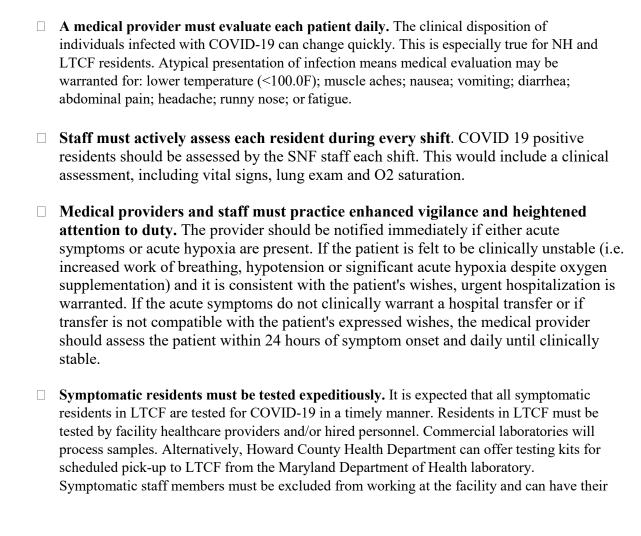
April 24, 2020

Dear Long-Term Care Facility Colleagues,

Re: Heightened Practices Required to Mitigate COVID-19 Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities

The COVID-19 pandemic is adversely affecting all of us; however, its impact is seen more acutely in our most vulnerable Howard County residents in long-term care facilities (LTCF), specifically Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), Subacute Rehabilitation Facilities (SRF), Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), and Congregate Living (CL).

Extra measures must be implemented in LTCF to effectively mitigate the impact of this unprecedented pandemic on our most vulnerable residents:



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primary care provider order testing at drive up clinics in the County, as well.

- □ Updated CDC recommendations must be implemented: As of April 13, 2020, additional guidance addresses asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission of COVID-19 infection.
 - Implement universal source control for everyone entering the facility (including health care personnel) and actively screen for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms before every shift
 - Isolate symptomatic patients and cohort COVID-19 confirmed patients
 - Limit the numbers of staff providing COVID-19 patient care

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) invites all LTCF to participate in their webinar on Thursdays weekly, 12:30-1:30pm, for key CDC updates and MDH public health guidance.

COVID-19 demands that we meet these extraordinary requirements to ensure we promote, preserve, and protect the health of all Howard County residents, especially the most vulnerable of our population. Your immediate attention is expected and appreciated to ensure above practices within your LTCF.

Sincerely,

Maura J. Rossman, MD

Health Officer, Howard County

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