Revisiting How to Mitigate Risk for COVID-19
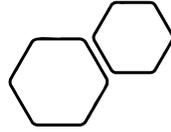
June 9, 2020

What is Risk?

Risk involves uncertainty about the effects/implications of an activity with respect to something that humans value (such as health, well-being, wealth, property or the environment), often focusing on negative, undesirable consequences.

More simply: **Risk** is the possibility or chance of loss, danger or injury.

Risk Management

The identification, evaluation, and prioritization of risks (risk assessment) followed by implementation of risk controls to minimize the probability or impacts of unfortune outcomes (risk mitigation).

Risk Assessment Table

		Severity of Harm (Impact)		
		Low (L)	Medium (M)	High (H)
Likelihood	High (H)	3	4	5
	Medium (M)	2	3	4
	Low (L)	1	2	3

Weighing Risks

- Individuals will need to weigh some risks on their own now that states are opening up – (should you still go to a restaurant or bar that has re-open? Is it safer if people are only allowed to dine outside?)

- The main way people are getting sick with SARS-CoV-2 is from respiratory droplets spreading between people in close quarters.

- The risk of catching the coronavirus, simply put, "is breathing in everybody's breath"

LOWEST RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGHER RISK	HIGHEST RISK
HOME ALONE OR WITH HOUSEMATES	**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**	**OUTDOOR GATHERINGS**	**INDOOR GATHERINGS**
•Stay home as much as possible. •Try to allow only people you live with into your home. •Wash your hands. •If you're sick, stay home and isolate from housemates.	•Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Avoid shared surfaces, like swings or benches.	•Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces. •Participate in events like these infrequently.	•Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces. •Open windows for better ventilation. •Try to avoid gathering indoors as much as possible.

Consider Risk Across Four Dimensions

There's always risk

"Wearing a mask is not going to completely reduce your risk, hand-washing is not going to completely reduce your risk, and staying a distance away from people in an enclosed space is not going to completely reduce your risk [but] the concurrent use of all those strategies will hopefully reduce your risk down to a lower level. We can never get to zero. There's no such thing as zero risk."
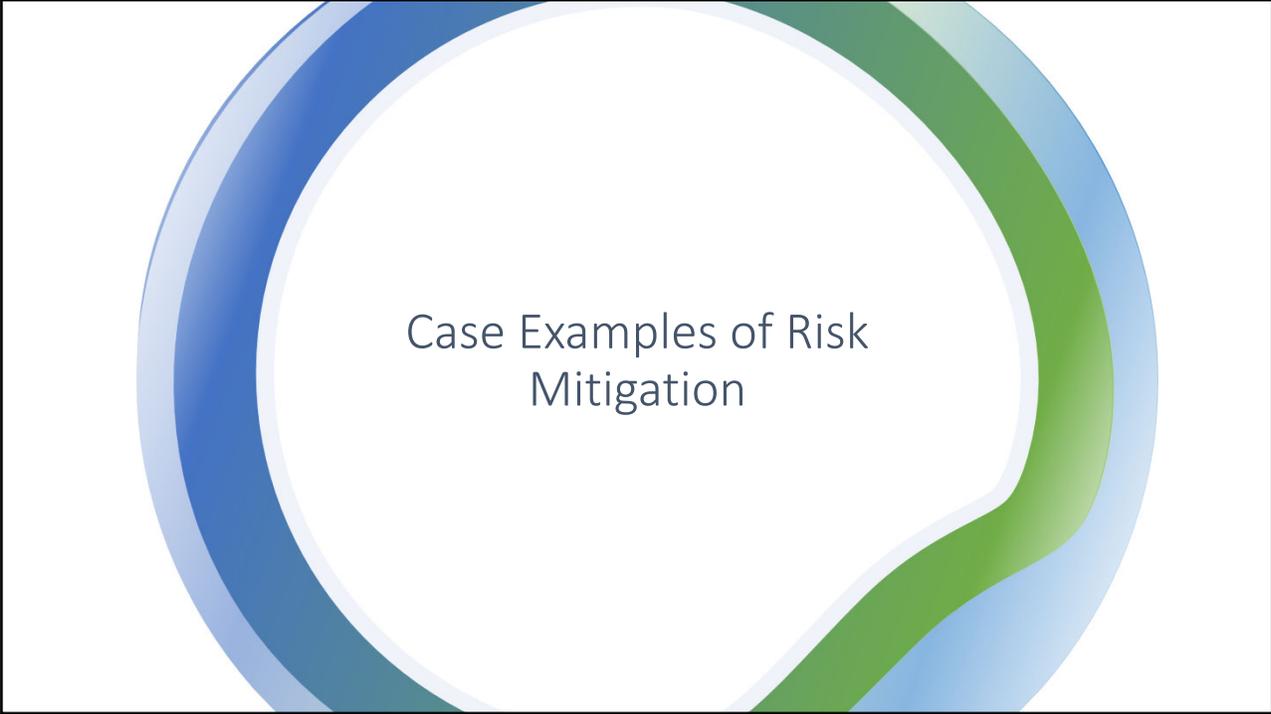
Case Examples of Risk Mitigation

Example #1: Go for a Ride

- Daughter of an elderly resident living in a 2 bed AFH would like to take her mother out for a drive
- Daughter and resident say they understand that there is some risk involved with going on a car ride during the pandemic but think the outing would be good for the resident's mental well being
- They are both willing to follow any guidance provided by the facility regarding infection prevention measures during the ride and any administrative protocol already in place.

Poll Questions for Example 1

1. What type of risk is associated with this example?
   - Lowest risk/Moderate risk/Higher risk/Highest risk
2. What in this scenario increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19? Decreases the risk?

Example #1: Assessing & Mitigating Risk

Increases Risk	Decreases Risk
• Close proximity within an enclosed (indoor) space • Resident is elderly and at higher risk for severe complications from COVID-19 infection • Resident lives in AFH and daughter is not part of her household	• Opening windows for better ventilation • Consider having resident sit in back of car to create distance • Encourage everyday preventive actions (healthy hygiene practices, cloth face coverings or facemask, etc.) • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surface (door handle, seatbelt, etc.) • Administrative controls in place such as screening, request for visitor to symptom monitor and providing education on ways residents & visitors can protect themselves and others.

Example #2: Visit a Beauty Salon

- A RCAC tenant wants to go to her local beauty salon now that it has re-opened up to get her hair and nails done
- The resident says the salon takes walk-in as well as appointments and is unsure if the salon is following any guidance or recommendations provided for re-opening beauty salons
- Resident agrees to wear a cloth face covering and be screened upon return from salon visit
- She says she understands the risks of making a non-essential trip into the community but says there has been very few cases in the area

Poll Questions for Example #2

1. What type of risk is associated with this example?
   - Lowest risk/Moderate risk/Higher risk/Highest risk
2. What in this scenario increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19? Decreases the risk?

Example #2: Assessing & Mitigating Risk

Increases Risk	Decreases Risk
• Resident is higher risk for severe complications from COVID-19 infection and lives in a facility that houses other high risk individuals	• Resident made aware of general guidelines and best practices Personal Services Business should strive to take to keep clients and employees safe, such as:
• Considered a nonessential outing and increased risk as there has been some community spread	• All employees should wear cloth face covering or facemask
• Resident will have close contact with cosmetologists during visit	• Limit the number of clients in shop at one time and no front desk check in or reception area use
• Salon allows for walk-in which increases risk as common area is shared by multiple customers	• Establish prepay systems or self-checkout systems
	• Additional Engineering controls (plexiglass & increased ventilation within shop)
	• Administrative controls at facility in place such as screening upon return from visit.

Example 3: Attend a Religious Service

- Son of an elderly resident living in an CBRF would like to take his father to a Sunday church service as their church has started having services again
- Resident and son say they understand that there is some risk involved with attending a church service as there has been increasing community spread of the virus but they would regularly attend Sunday church services together prior to the safer-at-home order.
- They are both willing to follow any guidance provided by the facility regarding infection prevention measures regarding transportation and attending church services in addition to any administrative protocol already in place.

Poll Questions for Example

1. What type of risk is associated with this example?
   - Lowest risk/Moderate risk/Higher risk/Highest risk
2. What in this scenario increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19? Decreases the risk?

Example #3: Assessing & Mitigating Risk

Increases Risk	Decreases Risk
• Resident is higher risk for severe complications from COVID-19 infection and lives in a facility that houses other high risk individuals • Resident lives in congregate living setting and son is not part of his household • Close proximity within an enclosed (indoor) space	• Resident and son made aware of how to protect themselves and others such as: • Participating in remote service vs. in-person services • Continue to encourage everyday preventive actions (healthy hygiene practices, cloth face coverings or facemask, etc.) • Son should in inquire mitigation measures their faith community has in place (i.e. encourages or requires cloth face covering by all attending services, spacing & limiting attendee number to promote social distancing, screening, etc.) • Administrative controls at AL facility in place such as screening upon return from visit and request for visitor to symptom monitor.

References

• **Is There Any Safe Way to Socialize During the Coronavirus Pandemic?**
https://time.com/5835818/socializing-coronavirus-social-distancing/
• **6 feet away isn't enough. Covid-19 risk involves other dimensions, too**
https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2020/5/22/21265180/cdc-coronavirus-surfaces-social-distancing-guidelines-covid-19-risks
• **WEDC: Reopening Guidelines for Your Business** https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/
• **CDC Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html
• **DHS COVID-19: Long-Term Care Facilities and Services**
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/ltc.htm
• **CDC People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html
• **CDC How to Protect Yourself & Others**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html

Additional Resources

- **CDC Deciding to Go Out**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html

- **CDC Doctor Visits & Getting Medicines**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/doctor-visits-medicine.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM33441

- **CDC Older Adults**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html

- **CDC Additional COVID-19 Guidance for Caregivers of People Living with Dementia**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/caregivers-dementia.html

- **DHS COVID-19: Activity Level by Region and County**
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm

Interesting Articles

Outbreak Investigation of COVID-19 Among Residents and Staff of an Independent and Assisted Living Community for Older Adults in Seattle, Washington
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2766448

Getting Back to 'Normal' May Not Be So Easy. Crisis Experts Can Help.
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/well/coronavirus-friends-quarantine-lockdown.html

As states start to reopen, here's where people are going
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/businesses-foot-traffic-coronavirus-reopening-us/

Chagrin Falls nursing home creates 'hug booth,' allowing families to embrace safely
https://fox8.com/news/coronavirus/chagrin-falls-nursing-home-creates-hug-booth-allowing-families-to-embrace-safely/?fbclid=IwAR3tLd-0bFdkm-LJyS3M_2afxzH3kizj8FFqs4uFOPSdNpgdg63bVmactuI

How to Hug During a Pandemic
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/well/family/coronavirus-pandemic-hug-mask.html?referringSource=articleShare