

Updated COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Health Care Settings



Ashlie Dowdell
Director

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program
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Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs)

- Guidance used depends on the care provided.
 - Community-focused guidance: non-skilled* care of the type that might be performed by a family member (personal care, oral medication administration, etc.)
 - Health care settings guidance: skilled* care
- HCP coming into the facility who perform skilled care need to follow the health care settings guidance.

*See [guidance](#) for specific details on skilled and non-skilled examples.

[CDC Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Health Care Personnel](#)

Wisconsin ALFs

Per Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 145.03 (11) and 155.01(6), community-based residential facilities (CBRFs) are defined as health care facilities and as such, should follow the health care settings guidance. Additionally, it is recommended that other types of Wisconsin assisted living facilities, including residential care apartment complexes (RCACs) and adult family homes (AFHs), follow health care setting guidance in line with the best practices learned over the past few years for preventing and responding to outbreaks in these congregate care settings.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/bulletins/331773b>

End of the Public Health Emergency Declaration

- Two key metrics used for CDC health care settings' guidance become unavailable:
 - Community transmission level.
 - Community level.
- COVID-19 remains a reportable communicable disease in Wisconsin.

Two Main Recommendations Affected

Source control



Nursing home admission testing



[CDC Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Health Care Personnel](#)

Source Control

- Now at a facility's discretion
- Follow the CDC infection prevention and control core practices
- Consider:
 - Outbreaks
 - Facility, resident, and visitor characteristics and risks
 - Local data sources
 - Public health recommendations for particular situations

[CDC Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings](#)

Next Steps

- Review updated guidance.
- Evaluate current policy and any needed changes.
- Educate staff, residents, and visitors on updated policies for source control.
- Audit for compliance and provide just-in-time education to reinforce desired practices.
- Remain open to adjustments.

Appendix

Considerations for Implementing Broader Use of Masking in Healthcare Settings

Introduction:

Use of well-fitting masks in healthcare settings are an important strategy to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. Well-fitting masks can help block virus particles from reaching the nose and mouth of the wearer (wearer protection) and, if someone is ill, help block virus particles coming out of their nose and mouth from reaching others (source control). Masking by healthcare personnel as part of [Standard](#) and [Transmission-Based Precautions](#) and by ill individuals as part of [respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette](#) (i.e., for people with symptoms) are already well-described. This appendix describes considerations for implementing broader use of masking in healthcare settings. However, even when masking is not required by the facility, individuals should continue using a mask or respirator based on personal preference, informed by their perceived level of risk for infection based on their recent activities (e.g., attending crowded indoor gatherings with poor ventilation) and their potential for developing severe disease if they are exposed.

[CDC Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Health Care Personnel](#)

Don't forget about standard and transmission-based precautions!



Admission Testing

- The choice to test on admission is at a facility's discretion.
- Facilities should weigh the pros and cons of screening and consider any times when this may be valuable.
- It is not a requirement that any facility perform testing at discharge.

Next Steps

- Review updated guidance.
- Evaluate current policy and any needed changes.
- Educate staff on updated admission practices.
- Remain open to adjustments.

Listserv Message



Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program

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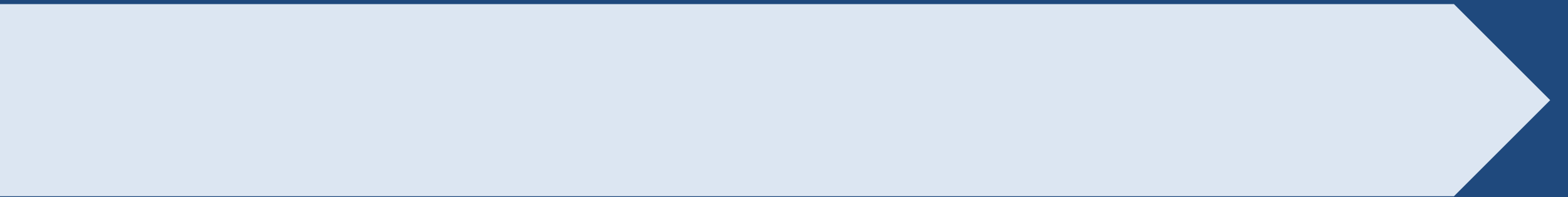
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This message is being sent to local public health officers; Tribal health directors; local public health department nurses and staff; Wisconsin National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Users: Long-Term Care list; NHSN Dialysis list; infection preventionists; and the Division of Quality Assurance Notifications and Assisted Living Forum lists.

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency ending on May 11, 2023, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) released updated [infection prevention and control \(IPC\) recommendations for health care settings](#) on May 8, 2023. The updated recommendations provide health care settings a framework to implement IPC practices based on their individual facility needs and risks. These recommendations continue to apply to all settings where health care is delivered, including nursing homes and home health.

Due to data variability following the end of the public health emergency, CDC will no longer publish community transmission level data. Previously, community transmission levels informed the use of source control in health care settings, as well as admission testing in nursing homes. Without the availability of this metric, CDC now makes the following recommendations.

Questions?



HAI Prevention Program Contact Information

dhswhaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov

608-267-7711

For additional contact information, visit our [webpage](#).