



Long-Term Care and Other Congregate Facilities Update: September 23, 2020

We're working and planning every day to take care of the most vulnerable Kentuckians during this crisis. Individuals from across the Cabinet for Health and Family Services are working together to address the complexities of responding to COVID-19 in a manner that is in the best interests of long-term care and other congregate residents, according to the capabilities of individual healthcare facilities and systems.

We will continue to be transparent as progress is made and guidance is issued.

Of note:

Data-gathering. Positive cases of the novel coronavirus in long-term care facilities are reported every day by local health departments and long-term care facilities to the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). The state DPH makes this information available to the public most every day on kycovid19.ky.gov.

The legal residence of someone living in a long-term care facility is used for KDPH reporting consistency. KDPH references legal residence when reporting health information of all other types, without exception, including communicable diseases (the flu, salmonella, smallpox or other outbreaks), or non-transmissible diseases, like cancer. KDPH then shares this data with the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease and Prevention, and other entities. Using legal residence is consistent with these federal entities' reporting formats.

If a Kentuckian is away from home – on vacation in Florida, for instance, and is rushed to the emergency room and receives a cancer diagnosis while away, the report will identify the patient as a Kentuckian. Using legal residence in this consistent way helps the public, medical experts and others track many things, including the prevalence of certain types of conditions. It also helps with surveillance of seasonal things, such as the onset and decrease in flu cases.

A facility's presence on the Long-Term Care Facilities Update reflecting positive COVID-19 cases should not be interpreted to suggest facilities were not prepared for an outbreak. Many of the facilities on the list have reported few positive COVID-19 cases. Several have reported just one positive resident or just one positive staff member. Many of these same facilities have reported no additional cases in the weeks, now, going on months – that have passed since the facility was added to the report. This indicates commitment to thorough infection-prevention practices and other measures, including the temporary suspension of visitation.

Also, there is potential for error in what is reported to KDPH; potential for error in aggregating or categorizing the data, and potential for error in creating the report that is posted to the [kycovid19](https://kycovid19.ky.gov) site. Additionally, at times, a resident of one of these facilities who becomes COVID-19 positive was not actually exposed or symptomatic while at the facility due to hospitalization elsewhere prior to their COVID-19 cases but is still placed on the list because the positive individual listed this facility as their permanent residence.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services has established the Long-Term Care Task Force to advise long-term care facilities on issues, including testing strategies, infection control measures, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) strategies, staffing, resident/staff cohorting based on COVID-19 status, financial needs, and resident transfers to acute care hospitals, when indicated.

Facilities included on this list have responded to the state's plan and mechanism for communicating regularly with residents, family members, local health departments and other partners, disclosing when someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 has been inside the facility within 14 days prior to the date of the COVID-19 test.

Confirmed positive results meet confirmatory laboratory evidence. Probable results meet clinical criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19 OR meets presumptive laboratory evidence AND either clinical criteria or epidemiologic evidence, OR meets vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.

Information is changing rapidly. The following reflects long-term care facilities' positive cases through September 23, 2020. Data includes follow-up to facilities with old cases and reports from facilities where mass-testing has been done. Mortality data has also been reconciled.

Facilities Reporting at Least One Positive Case of COVID-19 in a Resident or Staff Member since March 7, 2020, alphabetized by county; not indicative of current case volume, September 23, 2020: