



Kentucky Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Guidance for Acute Healthcare Facilities in response to COVID - 19

We are continuing to respond aggressively to COVID-19 in Kentucky.

Community-wide mitigation strategies continue to evolve in order to keep all patients, staff, and visitors within the commonwealth healthy and safe. Because ill healthcare personnel (HCP) or visitors are potential sources to introduce COVID-19 into healthcare facilities, please see the following.

Please note: Visitation is restricted, except in end of life situations.

Visitor Restrictions:

- Restrict visitation at your facility.
- Offer alternative methods of visitation (Skype, Face Time, etc.), if available.
- Actively screen all visitors for a fever and respiratory symptoms.
- Maintain a record (e.g., a log with contact information, date, travel screening, illness screening, and temperature) of all visitors (including vendors, inspectors, etc.).
- Retain the visitor log for at least 30 days.
- Ensure visitors limit their movement within the facility.
- Post visual alerts at the entrance to facilities instructing visitors not to visit if they have a fever, or symptoms of a respiratory illness.

Healthcare Personnel Infection Prevention Strategies:

- Restrict non-essential personnel including volunteers and non-essential consultant personnel from entering the building.
- Screen all staff (including environmental services, ancillary services, vendors, contractors and external providers) at the beginning of their shift for fever and respiratory symptoms.
- Daily record temperature and document absence of shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat (Sample Health and Travel Screening Form Attached).
- Prohibit staff from working unless they are screened at the start of every shift.
- If staff are ill, immediately have them put on a facemask and self-isolate at home.
- Prioritize ill healthcare providers for COVID-19 testing.
- Keep a record of other facilities where your staff are working.
- Geographically cohort staff by assigning dedicated staff to specific units.
- Minimize entries into patient rooms by bundling care and treatment activities.

Additional information can be obtained at www.KYCOVID19.KY.GOV