



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Safety, Oversight and Quality

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AFH – Provider Alert

Date: September 12, 2020

To: All Nursing Facilities
All Assisted Living Facilities
All Residential Care Facilities
All Adult Foster Homes

From: Safety, Oversight and Quality
DHS Aging and People with Disabilities Program

RE: **Wildfire Evacuation Returns to Facilities Information**

ODHS Safety, Oversight and Quality often recommends Wildfire evacuations take place at Level 2 rather than Level 3, to accommodate for the time and care needs for transferring higher acuity residents.

Providers should keep in mind that the Department has seen some counties allowing returns, though they may still be close to higher evacuation level zones, or themselves in Level 1 or Level 2. Though this may be appropriate for the general community, providers should consider whether this is the most prudent move for some residents.

- Contact your [county emergency manager](#) to verify clearance to return.
- Once cleared by county authorities, Providers need to consider their own readiness to return, including but not limited to staffing schedules confirmed, supplies (including PPE), and specific care and transfer needs of higher-acuity residents.
- Please notify the appropriate SOQ licensing team for your facility type when residents have safely returned to the facility, or if you have any questions or need assistance planning the return.

The list of county emergency managers can be found at this link:

https://www.oregon.gov/oem/Documents/locals_list.pdf

Facilities in Level 2 evacuation zones should receive approval from their [county emergency manager](#) prior to moving back into their facilities to make sure it is safe to return.

In this unprecedented time, we recommend that facilities consider all evacuated residents potentially exposed and use conservative infection control strategies that facilities have been implementing during this pandemic to limit the spread of COVID-19. Below are specific measures recommended for evacuated residents returning to their home facilities.

1. To the extent possible: place residents in private rooms, prioritizing those who were in private rooms pre-evacuation; once all private rooms are utilized, place residents in their original rooms with their pre-evacuation roommates.
2. Restrict residents to their rooms for 14 days (herein referred to as observation period) upon their return to the facility.
 - For facilities with wandering residents, assign additional staff for redirection and increase frequency of environmental disinfection.
 - Minimize the use of shared spaces: avoid group activities, including communal dining; limit the use of shared bathrooms; increase frequency of disinfection of shared spaces.
3. During the 14-day observation period, all recommended PPE should be worn:
 - Eye protection (face shield or goggles) and mask (medical-grade mask or N95 respirator) as part of ongoing universal PPE in long-term care facilities
 - Gloves
 - Gowns if available
4. During the 14-day observation period, closely monitor (at least 3 times per day) all residents for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including vital signs. For any resident with suspected COVID-compatible signs or symptoms, immediately notify DHS and the LPHA and arrange for testing.
5. If the facility chooses to implement testing before lifting restrictions, testing should be completed at the end of the 14-day observation period. If a confirmed case in either a resident or staff is identified during this period, follow standard protocol for full facility testing.

The Healthcare-Associated Infections Program is available for consultation regarding re-integration of evacuated residents. A consultation can be requested by completing this [form](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing team:
For Community Based Care Provider:

CBC.team@dhsosha.state.or.us

For Nursing Facility Providers:

NF.licensing@dhsosha.state.or.us

For Adult Foster Home questions, please contact:

APD.AFHteam@state.or.us.

For general information about the DHS Office of Safety, Oversight and Quality, visit the DHS Web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/.