



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Human Services

Safety, Oversight and Quality

PO Box 14530, Salem, OR 97309

550 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Phone: (503) 373-2227

Fax (503) 378-8966

NF-22-054 – Provider Alert

Date: September 30, 2022

To: All Nursing Facility Care Providers
All Assisted Living Facility Providers
All Residential Care Facility Providers

From: Aging and People with Disabilities (APD)
Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit (SOQ)

Subject: **Updated CDC/CMS COVID-19 Guidance**



The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) have received several questions since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated COVID-19 infection control recommendations on Friday, September 23, 2022. ODHS and OHA are in the process of approving updated guidance to clarify these changes specific to Oregon regulations. This updated guidance is expected to be released next week via a Provider Alert.

On Friday, September 23, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also issued the following revised QSO memos related to COVID-19:

- [QSO-20-38-NH](#) – COVID Testing Requirements (revised 09-23-22)
- [QSO-20-39-NH](#) – Nursing Home Visitation (Revised 09-23-22)

Requirements That Remain in Effect Currently

Nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities must continue to comply with the following OARs:

- Masking requirements for all health care settings as outlined in [OAR 333-019-1011](#). Please note, “health care settings” include nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities.
- Vaccination requirements as outlined in [OAR 333-019-1010](#), and
- Vaccination reporting requirements as outlined in [OAR 411-061](#)

Requirements Changing as a Result of the New CDC/CMS Guidance

ODHS, in collaboration with Oregon Health Authority, will be releasing updated guidance related to the following COVID-19 requirements next week, in support of facilities following the updated CDC’s [Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#):

- Vaccination status is no longer used to inform screening testing or post-exposure recommendations,
- When universal use of personal protective equipment should be considered,
- Testing frequency to detect potential for variants with shorter incubation periods and to address the risk for false negative antigen tests in people without symptoms,
- Screening testing of asymptomatic staff is at the discretion of the facility,
- In general, asymptomatic residents no longer require empiric use of Transmission-Based Precautions following close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection,
- In general, asymptomatic staff who have had an exposure to SARS-CoV-2 do not require work restriction if they do not develop symptoms or test positive for SARS-CoV-2.

ODHS realizes the CDC and CMS updates created conflicts with the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) [411-060](#) (testing requirements). Outbreak testing guidance updates are underway and will be released as soon as possible. ODHS will also be updating OAR 411-060 thereafter.

If you have any questions about this alert, please email the corresponding program:

- Residential Care and Assisted Living Facilities: CBC.TEAM@odhsoha.oregon.gov
- Nursing Facilities: NF.LICENSING@odhsoha.oregon.gov

General questions may be sent to: SOQ.LTCinfo@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Oregon Department of Human Services website: www.oregon.gov/DHS/