

When COVID Arrives

Here are the initial steps to take when one of your staff or residents tests positive for COVID-19



1. CALL THE ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY HOTLINE 833-603-2537 (ALFS)

2. ISOLATE

- In general, anyone who tests positive for COVID should be considered contagious and isolate. They should stay away from the date of their test or from symptom onset, whichever is longer. After 10 days, they can return to work or routine activities so long as they don't have a fever for the last 24hrs and their symptoms are improving.
- If a staff member tests positive, send them home immediately.
- If a resident or live-in caregiver tests positive, isolate them to their room and avoid activities with others.



3. TEST, TEST, TEST

- After identifying a positive resident or staff, test all previously negative staff and residents at least twice weekly.
- If you have questions or need help arranging a testing plan, please call the **Assisted Living Facility Hotline - 833-603-2537 (ALFS)** or your local Public Health Center.



4. INFECTION PREVENTION

- Monitor and observe staff wearing their PPE to ensure proper fit and use.
- If possible, dedicate staff to care for COVID positive residents only. This is considered best infection control practice. Try to avoid having the same staff care for both COVID positive and COVID negative residents simultaneously.



- Isolate residents to their rooms and take measures to limit shared bathrooms, living spaces or activities that include other residents.

5. Educate residents, staff, and visitors

- Restrict visitors, if not already done.
- Inform residents' families of measures being taken to assure the safety of their loved ones.
- Assure all staff understand infection prevention precautions being taken in the facility, and what they can do to protect the residents, staff, and themselves.

RESOURCES:

1. How to request additional PPE
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/ppe.aspx>
2. CDC Considerations for Preventing Spread of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/assisted-living.html>
3. CDC Using Personal Professional Equipment (PPE)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>
4. Alaska DHSS COVID-19 In Alaska
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>
5. Alaska Local Public Health Center Locations and Contact Information
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/ppe.aspx>

