

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):  
Infection Control Procedures and Mitigating the Spread of  
COVID-19 in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals  
with an Intellectual Disability  
ODP Announcement 21-077**

**AUDIENCE:**

Private Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/IDs)

**PURPOSE:**

To provide updated guidance to providers of ICF/ID services related to infection control procedures and mitigation of the spread of COVID-19.

**DISCUSSION:**

For providers of services, this guidance replaces the *DHS COVID-19 Provider Guidance on COVID-19 for Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Residences and Private Intermediate Care Facilities* with the following guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and any future replacements of the referenced guidance from the PA DOH and CMS.

- [QSO-20-23-ICF/IID & PRTF \(cms.gov\): Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

- [QSO-21-14-ICF/IID & PRTF Revised 06.03.2021 \(cms.gov\): Visitation at Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities \(ICF/IIDs\) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities \(PRTFs\)](#)
- [PA HAN 578: Circulation of non-influenza and non-COVID-19 respiratory viruses including the respiratory syncytial viruses \(RSV\) \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [PA HAN 595: UPDATE: Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [PA HAN 596: UPDATE: Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Exposure to COVID-19 \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [PA HAN 597: UPDATE: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [PA HAN 598: UPDATE: Core Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- [PA HAN 599: UPDATE: Response to an Outbreak and Residents with Exposure to COVID-19 for Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- [PA HAN 610: UPDATE: Quarantine Recommendations After SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Test](#)
- [PA HAN 602: Recommendations Regarding Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose](#)
- [Guidance on Hospitals' Responses To COVID-19](#) - see section on *Mandatory Patient Testing for COVID-19 Prior to Discharge to a Receiving Facility*

This announcement, and the guidance contained within is intended to supplement—not replace—any federal, state, or local public health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which providers of services in ICF/IDs must comply. Providers should take an individualized approach to determining appropriate risk mitigation strategies when working with individuals, including consideration of the Level of Community Transmission as identified in the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#).

The following resources can provide support as appropriate:

- The Long-Term Care Task Force has made support available for testing, staffing, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If approved by the Long-Term Care Task Force, these resources are provided at no cost to the facility.
  - **Regional Congregate Care Assistance Teams (RCAT):** The RCAT program consists of health systems that will provide COVID-19 outbreak support to long-term care facilities. [Learn more about RCAT](#).
  - **Testing:** To request assistance with COVID-19 outbreak testing, complete this online form: [Universal Testing Needs Assessment Form](#). Your request will be considered, and someone from the Long-Term Care Task Force will be in touch with you. For questions about testing, email [ra-dhCOVIDtesting@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dhCOVIDtesting@pa.gov).
  - **Staffing:** For short-term crisis staffing support due to a COVID-19 outbreak, complete this online form to request staffing for a 3-5 day period: [Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Task Force Staffing Support Request](#). If your facility is working with Penn State or UPenn RCAT, you must work directly with their RCAT for staffing support and NOT utilize this form.

- **PPE:** For PPE requests, complete this online form: [Healthcare Facility / Agency PPE Critical Needs Assessment Form](#).
- PA DOH Health Alert Network - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/HAN.aspx>
- PA DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)
- ODP Regional Offices

**Questions about this announcement or other related topics may be directed to [RA-PWODPEMRGNCYRSPRQ@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWODPEMRGNCYRSPRQ@pa.gov).**