



### **Resuming Activities in Long Term Care Facilities**

Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) recognizes the difficult challenges long term care facilities have faced in protecting vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 response. This document provides guidance for Tennessee Long Term Care Facilities (skilled nursing facilities, assisted living care facilities, and residential homes for the aged) when establishing steps to gradually resume activities, following COVID-19 restrictions. Beginning October 1, 2020, these guidelines will remain in effect until replaced or amended with additional guidance.

Facilities should continue to monitor for COVID-19 cases in residents and staff, through appropriate screening and testing. Facilities should be prepared to discontinue visitation and activities if the facility develops one or more new cases amongst residents or staff.



### **Resuming Facility Activities and Communal Dining**

#### **Limitations on Activities and Communal Dining**

Until a facility has gone fourteen (14) days without a new COVID-19 case in residents or staff, there should be limitations in place regarding activities and communal dining. Until fourteen (14) days with no new COVID-19 cases, group activities in common areas should not take place, and meal service should be limited to in-room dining.

#### **Activities and Communal Dining Allowed After 14 Days of no new COVID-19 cases**

Facilities may resume resident activities (barber/beautician visits, communal dining, small group social activities, etc.) once there have been no new COVID-19 cases in residents or staff in the facility for fourteen (14) days. Facilities should take into consideration set hours and/or timed entry to ensure proper staffing and cleaning of areas.

- Barbers and beauticians may work in the facility with the following considerations:
  - Barbers and beauticians should wear a face covering for the duration of time in the facility.
  - Barbers and beauticians should remain in the salon area and avoid common areas of the facility.
  - The salon area should utilize staged appointments to maintain distancing of at least six (6) feet apart and not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of capacity.
  - Barbers and beauticians must properly sanitize equipment and salon chairs between each resident, and the barber and beautician must perform proper hand hygiene.
  - Barbers and beauticians must routinely sanitize high-touch areas.
  - Residents must wear a face covering during their visit.
  
- Volunteer staff may work in the facility with following considerations:
  - Volunteers must follow the same infection control requirements as employed staff, including, but not limited to, universal masking, screening before each shift, and routine testing consistent with CMS guidelines.



### **Communal Dining**

- Residents may eat in the dining area maintaining social distancing of at least six (6) feet between tables and no more than two (2) people at a table in order to maintain adequate physical distance between persons.
- A limited number of individuals in a dining area at one time, not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of capacity unless that would be less than ten (10) people.

### **Group Activities**

- Small group activities may occur with at least six (6) feet of distancing, proper hand hygiene, and face coverings.
- A limited number of individuals in a common area at one time, not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of capacity, no more than ten (10) people.
- Facilities should restrict activities that encourage multiple residents to handle the same object(s) (e.g., ball toss).

### **Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Services**

- A limited number of individuals may be in a therapy and rehabilitation area at one time, not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of capacity, no more than ten (10) people.
- Therapeutic and rehabilitation services may occur in a small group setting (therapy gym) with at least six (6) feet of distancing, proper hand hygiene, and face coverings.
- Equipment is sanitized between uses in accordance with facility policies.

### **Accessing the Community: Medically Necessary Trips**

- Telemedicine should be utilized whenever possible.
- Non-medically necessary trips outside the building should be avoided.
- For medically necessary trips:
  - The resident should wear a face covering.
  - The facility must share the resident's COVID-19 status with the transportation service and health care provider with whom the resident has the appointment.
  - Transportation staff, at a minimum, should wear a face covering. Additional PPE may be required.
  - Transportation equipment shall be sanitized between transports.

### **Activities Allowed After 28 Days of no new COVID-19 cases**

There are no additional allowances regarding activities at this time.