

STEP 0

Implement proactive prevention measures.

Before a confirmed case(s) or suspected/confirmed cluster of COVID-19 is identified in a healthcare setting, facilities can take important steps to proactively protect that patients/residents and staff.

- [Review](#) the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Long-term Care Facilities](#).
- [Complete](#) the [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes and other Long-Term Care Settings](#) to identify key areas that long-term care facilities should consider in their COVID-19 planning.

STEP 1

Notify relevant public health partners of a confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 in a healthcare setting or suspected/confirmed cluster (≥2 cases) of COVID-19 cases in a healthcare setting.

If a local/regional health department is first notified, then they should promptly notify The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) central office (COVID19.Cluster@tn.gov). Conversely, if TDH central office is first notified, they will promptly notify the respective metro/regional health department via the Notify list.

STEP 2

Perform initial assessment at facility.

- Complete the [Questionnaire for Possible COVID-19 Illness Cluster](#) to obtain basic facility and patient information.

STEP 3

Identify a metro/regional epidemiology and infection prevention point-of-contact for the cluster.

If HAI infection prevention assistance is needed, notify TDH central office.

STEP 4

Build situation report and communicate information with relevant groups in metro/regional office and central office.

- Review [Investigations in Healthcare Settings](#) overview document discussing the approach to infection control/prevention, contact tracing, environmental cleaning and clinical testing when case(s) of COVID-19 are identified among staff/patients/residents of a healthcare facility.

- Utilize the template [Line List template for COVID-19 cases in a Healthcare Facility](#) to systematically track information on suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff/residents/patients in a healthcare facility.
- [Share TDH Healthcare Worker Case Guidance](#) document with information for healthcare workers who may have been exposed to or ill from COVID-19.

STEP 5

Determine public health response based on situation report.

- Consult [Investigations in Healthcare Settings](#) overview document.
- Considerations include:
 - Messaging (facility, community and media)
 - Determine extent of testing needed
 - Coordinate and send specimens to the State Public Health Laboratory
 - Notification of testing results
 - Cohorting of patients within the facility
 - Environmental cleaning
 - Ongoing infection prevention activities
- Consider [repeating](#) the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Long-term Care Facilities](#).

STEP 6

Continually reassess situation and mitigation activities.