How to Protect Yourself and Residents from COVID-19

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

A COVID-19 outbreak can be devastating for residents and their loved ones, as well as for staff. Here are tips and resources to help prevent you and your residents from getting COVID-19:

Disinfect high-touch surfaces
Disinfect water coolers, desks, light switches, phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tables and chairs.

Always wear a mask covering for your nose and mouth. Be sure to correctly use all personal protective equipment, including the right type of mask.

Practice good hand hygiene with frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content).

Cover coughs/sneezes with elbow or tissue and avoid touching your face.

It is important to:
- Follow infection control guidance at home and at work
- Know COVID-19 symptoms
- Monitor residents for symptoms and report any symptoms to facility nurse
- Separate residents who have COVID-19 from those who do not
- Stay home if you’re not feeling well
- If exposed to COVID-19, talk with your supervisor.

Practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
**COVID-19 symptoms**

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting

**Protect yourself outside of work**

- Wear a face mask that covers both your mouth and nose.
- Regularly disinfect high-touch areas and practice good hand hygiene.
- Launder clothes appropriately to ensure they are fully disinfected. Use the warmest temperatures possible and dry thoroughly.
- Practice physical distancing by staying 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid large crowds.
- Watch for symptoms; call your medical provider if you or someone in your household develops symptoms.
- Never go to work sick.

**Resources**

- [Oregon Care Partners COVID-19 training](https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SERVICES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx)
- How to protect yourself and others from COVID-19
- CDC guidance for nursing homes and assisted living (long-term care facilities)
- OHA guidance for long-term care facilities

For information about ODDS COVID-19 policies, go to: [https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SERVICES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SERVICES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx)