

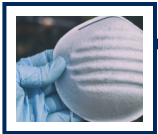
## LONG-TERM CARE GUIDANCE

Linn County Public Health recommends phased reopening for businesses and social establishments. This recommendation is in alignment with the CDC and other national organizations. Guidance across three phases is determined by key disease and resource metrics.

A phased approach enables long-term care facilities to reopen, while protecting the health and safety of residents, visitors, and employees.

Data associated with each phase and phase status can be found on Linn County Public Health's COVID-19 response page, <https://bit.ly/PhaseMetrics>. Business specific guidance is also available at <https://www.linncounty.org/1413/Reopening-Guidance>.

## Recommended Criteria during Community Spread



### Phased Reopening Metrics

The first phase is necessary to slow community spread of COVID-19 and avoid overwhelming the local healthcare system. During this phase, recommendations are for limited operations when reopening. In order to recommend moving to **Phase Two**, the criteria below must be met.

Phase One	
<b>Epidemiology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreased test positivity rate for at least 14 days</li> <li>Sustained reduction in number of cases for at least 14 days</li> <li>Decrease in deaths for at least 14 days</li> </ul>
<b>Health Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient PPE for all health care workers even if cases double</li> <li>Sufficient face masks available to provide to patients seeking care, even if cases double</li> <li>More discharges than admissions for COVID-19 within a 7 day period</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All cases interviewed for contact elicitation</li> <li>Contacts elicited for at least 90% of cases</li> <li>Capacity to monitor all confirmed cases and their contacts</li> <li>Capacity* to test all people who are symptomatic</li> </ul>

\* Testing capacity is influenced by a loosening of testing criteria, availability of nasal swabs to obtain sample, and the availability of PPE.



Move to **Phase Three** if the criteria above is met, a reduction in cases for an additional 14 days is observed, and a vaccine is available.

Phase Two		→	Phase Three
<b>Epidemiology</b>	Sustained reduction in cases for an <b>additional</b> 14 days		All previous criteria is met and vaccine is available
<b>Health Care</b>	Same as Phase One		
<b>Public Health</b>	Same as Phase One		



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Linn County, Iowa

## LONG-TERM CARE GUIDANCE



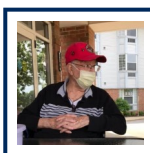
### Health Protocols for Staff

- Wash hands often, cover your cough and sneezes, and avoid touching your face.
- Maintain at least a six foot distance from others whenever possible.
- Self-isolate when ill, no matter how mild the illness.
- Employees stay home when ill. Review and suspend employee leave policies that penalize employees for staying home when ill.
- Require any employee in direct contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 to self-isolate according to CDC guidance.



### Infection Prevention Protocols

- Screen all persons entering the facility and employees upon arrival for COVID-19 symptoms, including temperature checks (100.4 or greater): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Employees demonstrating symptoms and/or who have a temperature greater than 100.4 are sent home.
- Residents are to be checked at least daily for COVID-19 symptoms, including elevated temperatures.
- Provide hand washing station or hand sanitizer at the entrance into the facility and to common areas.
- If possible, stagger employee work stations to physically distance employees.
- All persons entering the facility must wear a mask or cloth face covering. Residents who can tolerate a face covering, must wear a covering in common spaces, and if transported for care.
- Discourage employee use of communal items such as phones, desks, offices, or other work tools. If items need to be shared, wipe down in between uses.
- Increase regular housekeeping, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, equipment, and surface cleaning.
- Provide elevated personal protective equipment for employees in alignment with CDC infection control and PPE optimization guidance
- Maintain dedicated areas in the facility for cohorting and managing care for residents with COVID-19 and those who become symptomatic.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, etc.
- Frequently disinfect high traffic areas and high touch surfaces, such as medication carts and restrooms. Medication carts and other equipment shared between staff should be disinfected between uses or shifts.
- Follow CDC Guidelines for Cleaning: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>



### Activities

- Visitation into the facility should be prohibited, except for compassion care situations. If the facility structure allows, limited visitations may be held in a designated outdoor space. In these limited situations, additional precautions are taken. All visitors must be screened for current and recent COVID-19 symptoms and potential exposure prior to the visit, a face covering or mask must be worn for the duration of visit, and social distancing must be maintained between the visitor and well resident.
- Limit communal dining to allow a physical distance of at least 6 foot between well residents. Symptomatic residents are not to participate in communal dining and should be treated in accordance to isolation guidelines.
- Group activities should be limited or suspended until further notice. If group activities are held, limit the number of participants to no more than 10 non-symptomatic people distanced at least 6 feet apart.
- Non-essential, external outings are to be suspended. Residents are to wear a cloth face covering or mask if leaving the facility for medically necessary trips.

## LONG-TERM CARE GUIDANCE

Mitigation Guidance			
Action	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Wash hands often	Continue	Continue	Continue
Cover coughs/sneezes	Continue	Continue	Continue
Stay home when ill	Continue	Continue	Continue
Employee & visitor health checks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Resident health checks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Require use of mask/cloth face covering	Staff & visitors	Staff & visitors	Staff & visitors
Use mask/cloth face covering for residents (if able)	Common areas & outings	Common areas & outings	Common areas & outings
Hand wash station or hand sanitizer available at entrance to facility & common areas	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stagger work stations to socially distance staff	Continue for as long as possible	Continue for as long as possible	Continue for as long as possible
Employee PPE	Follow CDC guidance	Follow CDC guidance	Follow CDC guidance
Communal use items	Limited	Limited	Normal
Surface/object cleaning	Continue	Continue	Continue
Disinfection of high traffic areas & high-touch surfaces	Frequent	Frequent	Normal
Isolation of cases	Continue	Continue	Continue
Visitation	Prohibit	Limited	Limited
Dining services	Suspend	Limited	Limited
Group activities	Suspend	Limited	Limited
Non-essential outings	Suspend	Suspend	Limited