

# Long Term Care: Transitioning Between Zones During a COVID-19 Outbreak



LTC COVID-19  
Outbreak  
Units

HOME

## GREEN ZONE



**LOW RISK** of viral load or transmission

### SPACES TO CONSIDER

- Any non-clinical spaces outside of the outbreak unit

### PPE for All Staff/Volunteers\*

- As per Routine Practices/PCRA
- Follow VIHA recommendations for Pandemic PPE to wear surgical mask & eye protection if within 2 m (or 6 ft) of a resident

## ORANGE ZONE



**REDUCED** viral load

### SPACES TO CONSIDER

- Non-outbreak units
- Rooms occupied with **asymptomatic** residents on the outbreak unit
- Charting area on the outbreak unit
- Dining rooms/resident lounges/hallways on the outbreak unit
- PPE donning and doffing areas
- Staff washroom on unit
- Soiled utility & equipment cleaning areas
- Bathing room

### PPE for All Staff/Volunteers\*

- Surgical mask
- Face shield/visor or goggles

## RED ZONE



**HIGH** viral load/contamination zone

### SPACES TO CONSIDER

- Spaces occupied by **symptomatic** residents and their close contacts on the outbreak unit
- Entire outbreak unit

### PPE for All Staff/Volunteers\*

- Isolation gown and gloves
- Surgical mask
- Face shield/visor or goggles

### Minimize exposure:

- Where possible, cohort staff to work only with ill residents
- Bundle care and use runner to assist with bringing meal trays, medication or other supplies

- Hand hygiene

- Gather all required supplies
- Don appropriate PPE outside resident room/zone

- Doff PPE at door to resident room/zone
- Hand hygiene

\*Unless otherwise directed, all PPE must be changed after caring for any resident on Additional Precautions, including symptomatic residents.

\*Unless otherwise directed, surgical mask and eye protection can be used between asymptomatic patients. Gown and gloves worn as per Routine Practices & changed between residents

### Residents:

- Asymptomatic residents with no known COVID exposure

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- Asymptomatic residents with no known COVID exposure
- Asymptomatic residents on outbreak unit

### Residents:

- Confirmed COVID-19 positive residents
- Roommates of known COVID-19 positive residents
- Any resident with COVID symptoms

## Additional Outbreak Measures

- Clearly define outbreak area and zoning with IPAC/CD Unit (i.e. individual unit versus facility). This should be re-assessed on a daily basis.
- Post signage or floor marking to identify transition between zones.
- Determine how you will move supplies between zones. How will food or other supplies be delivered and removed?
- Start Precautions Plus cleaning in RED Zones and outbreak cleaning on outbreak unit
- Close affected outbreak area to admission, re-admissions or transfers as directed by IPAC/MHO/CD Unit.
- Modify internal activities to promote adherence to physical distancing measures for resident and staff
- Residents may leave Red Zone to go to hospital or for medically necessary tests wearing a surgical mask. Alert receiving facility. Transport staff to wear PPE.**
- Arrange for tray service for meals for all residents on the outbreak unit. If unable to move to in room tray-service for asymptomatic residents, develop dining shift (maintaining physical distancing and cleaning dining room between residents)
- Symptomatic patients should not participate in shared bathing program

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