



## Changes to Long-term Care COVID-19 Guidance

What changed in Clinical Guidance	9-9 Guidance	9-28 Guidance
Basis for routine testing	County positivity rate checked once a week	Community transmission rate checked once in two weeks
Screen at entrance	By a person	By a person or an electronic monitoring system
Fully vaccinated resident with exposure	TBP for 14 days	No transmission-based precautions (TBP) if asymptomatic
Outbreak testing	Every 3-7 days	Based on ability to contact trace or broad based
Testing after exposure	Immediately, if negative 5-7 days after exposure	2 days, if negative 5-7 days after exposure
Low risk exposure	No mention of low risk; 3-5 day test after exposure	No testing after low risk exposure if asymptomatic
Assess residents	Daily for symptoms of COVID-19	Daily for symptoms, fever, ideally include pulse oximetry
Refusal to test -Staff	<p>We quoted CMS memo without this full language on SOP, but the memo said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symptomatic staff refusing test restricted from work</li> <li>• Staff restricted from work if refuses outbreak testing.</li> <li>• Occupational health if asymptomatic staff refuses routine testing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symptomatic staff refusing test restricted from work</li> <li>• <b>Unvaccinated</b> staff restricted from work if refuses outbreak testing.</li> <li>• Occupational health if asymptomatic unvaccinated staff refuses routine testing.</li> </ul>
Refusal to test- residents	<p>We quoted CMS memo without this full language on SOP, but the memo said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symptomatic residents refusing testing should be in TBP</li> <li>• If outbreak, asymptomatic resident refuses testing, be extremely vigilant. Ensure resident distances from others, masks, strict hand hygiene until outbreak testing is completed. Think of alternate testing such as nares instead of nasopharyngeal</li> </ul>	All of that plus TBP based on symptoms or vaccination status.
Testing for other pathogens	Not mentioned	Consider testing for other pathogens in symptomatic individuals



What changed in Infection Control Guidance	9-9 Guidance	9-28 Guidance
Screening of visitors and HCP at entrance	Included taking physical temperatures	Temps may be recorded by asking HCP if they have a fever in past 24 hours, using screening tools for visitors or kiosk
COVID unit red zone resident doors	Did not comment in guidance; was noted in TBP CDC Airborne Precautions	CDC recommends generally keeping closed in this zone unless there are safety risks, fall, dementia or memory care
Eye protection	Based on vaccine status and county positivity rates, always used for TBP red and yellow zone	Based on community transmission when substantial or high for all HCP in green zone regardless of vaccine status, always used for TBP in red and yellow zone
Masks	Transition from KN 95 in red and yellow zone	N95 NIOSH approved for red and yellow zone, may use up KN95 in green zones
Outbreaks	TBP by contact tracing	TBP by contact tracing and Unvaccinated residents should be restricted to their rooms even if testing negative during outbreak
Ongoing transmission	TBP by contact tracing	If outbreak continues past 14 days consider quarantine for fully vaccinated residents and fully vaccinated HCP with work restrictions for containment
Residents leaving facility	Screen upon return for IC practices when out and possible exposures	Same, and follow clinical guidance for > 24 hours treating as a re-admission (clarified)
PPE for specimen collection	Did not comment in guidance on this before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When HCP performs specimen collection: wear gown, glove, N95 and eye protection</li> <li>• When handling specimens (or HCP or resident do test and hand off) Use standard precautions, social distancing and source control as recommended per zone and community transmission guidance.</li> </ul>
IP CHECKLIST	New for facility IPs to use in outbreaks	Updated with PPE changes from CDC 9.10.21 guidance
COVID-19 IP Toolkit	Updated with SOPs, IP checklist	Updated Stop Signs and IP checklist with new PPE guidance. Removed LTC Medical Director Vaccine toolkit and made it a link.