

Guidance for Non-Residential Adult Care Centers

The information compiled in this document was drawn from various sources provide by Texas Department of State Health Services, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various state and local health departments. COVID-19 is most likely to be transmitted via person-to-person contact, therefore facilities with communal areas must manage them appropriately to reduce spread.

How to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in non-residential adult care facilities:

- Develop a plan for monitoring and managing clients to identify COVID-like-illness (CLI)
 - Take staff and client temperatures daily (over 99.6° F fever is CLI symptom)
 - Everyone entering the facility should be temperature screened.
 - If a client, staff member, or anyone being screened has a temperature over 99.6° F, they should not be admitted into the facility
- Provide cloth face masks for clients to wear
- Enforce social distancing practices at all times
 - Clients should remain at least 6 feet apart whenever possible
 - Staff members should maintain distancing whenever possible, except when providing direct care to clients
- Clean and disinfect environment daily
- Post signage encouraging:
 - Proper personal hygiene
 - Regular handwashing with soap
 - Frequent hand hygiene with hand sanitizer
 - Social distancing
 - Cleaning practices
- Ensure the availability of adequate soap and hand sanitizer
- Educate both staff and clients on recognizing and reporting symptoms of COVID-19 and CLI, and proper cleaning and hygiene measures
- Protect the health of clients & staff, by encouraging everyone to practice social distancing & wear face coverings at all times, even outside of the facility.

What if a client is exhibiting symptoms?

- A separate room and bathroom should be preserved for individuals exhibiting symptoms, to isolate them in until they are picked up
 - If a separate bathroom is not possible, one staff member or other person should be designated to clean and disinfect the bathroom with proper personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Wear a close-fitting face mask, preferably washable
 - Wear rubber, vinyl, or nitrile gloves and dispose after use (or disinfect if reusable)
 - Avoid direct contact with any surface while cleaning
 - Wash and disinfect PPE daily



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- If the client exhibiting symptoms requires close-contact assistance, a single staff member should be designated to care for the client.
 - The staff member caring for a symptomatic client should wear the following PPE:
 - Eye protection
 - Gloves
 - Surgical mask
 - Long sleeved shirt, that should be changed if any secretions get on it
 - Hand hygiene should be practiced often
 - PPE should be removed before coming in contact with another client, and when leaving the isolation area

How can other clients be kept safe?

- Closely monitor clients who have had close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases
- Clients with COVID-like-illness (CLI) should be treated as positive cases and isolated, any one or combination of the following is considered CLI:
 - Fever (99.6° F and above)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Loss of sense of smell/taste

When can clients safely return to the center after illness?

- A client can return to their care center when:
 - It has been **at least ten (10) days** since their symptoms started
 - The client **never had fever or has not had a fever for the prior three days without use of fever-reducing drugs** such as Tylenol or ibuprofen
 - The client's overall illness has improved.



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How to clean and disinfect to eliminate coronavirus on surfaces:

- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces regularly
 - doorknobs, light switches, handrails, kitchen appliances, counters, drawer pulls, tables, sinks, faucet and toilet handles, drinking fountains, elevator buttons, push plates, phones, keys and remote controls
- Clean by washing with soap and water any visible dirt and grime before using disinfectants
 - Disinfectants remove most germs and are most effective on clean surfaces or objects
 - Always read and follow the manufacturer's directions (e.g., application method, contact time)
- For clothing, towels, linens and other items that go in the laundry: Wash at the warmest possible setting with your usual detergent and then dry completely
 - Avoid "hugging" laundry before washing it to avoid self-contamination
 - Do not shake dirty laundry before washing to avoid spreading virus or other dirt and bacteria through the air
 - Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items

Resources

- [CA-MOC \(Capital Area Medical Operations Center\) PPE Request Form](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Community Facilities](#)
- [NADSA COVID-19 Information & Resources](#)
- [Austin Public Health COVID-19 Information](#)

