

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS

Maintaining physical distance between residents can help to decrease the spread of germs, particularly during an active outbreak (while there are positive cases in the building). During a COVID-19 outbreak where resident-to-resident transmission has occurred, consider adding, in addition to masking, some of the following strategies to support social distancing:

Resident, Visitor, and Staff Strategies

- Consider turning off music, television, or other activities that attract residents to congregate. Provide distractions in resident rooms where possible.
- Work to support and encourage masking for residents who wander or continue to occupy community spaces.

Dining Spaces

- Close dining rooms to prevent on-going transmission while residents are unmasked and eating.
- Move tables so that they are all spaced six feet apart. Place only one chair per table. If a couple shares a room, it is acceptable for them to share a dining table.
- For residents requiring support while eating, consider reducing room occupancy during each meal sitting. Ensure all residents are seated at least 6ft apart.
- Avoid having a single staff member feed multiple residents at the same time.
- Ensure residents perform hand hygiene before eating and when leaving the dining area.

Community Activities

- Halt group activities when resident-to-resident transmission has occurred.
- Determine the maximum number of people that should be in each room based on its size and layout. Consider posting a sign indicating how many people should be in that space. Include elevators if the building has them.
- Follow guidance for safer visitation.
- Community activity can safely resume when there have been at least 14 days since the last positive test and no individuals are symptomatic.

Optimizing the Environment

Communal Areas

- Remove additional seating or turn sofas and chairs toward the wall to prevent congregation
- Consider turning off music, television, or other activities that attract residents to congregate. Provide distractions in resident rooms where possible.
- Encourage masking for residents who wander or continue to occupy community spaces.



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- Limit elevator passengers to ensure that six-foot distance can be maintained with the doors closed.
- Place visual cues such as floor markers to guide traffic and avoid congestion in hallways and community areas such as activity rooms, dining rooms, elevator area, lobbies.

