



## San Bernardino County Public Health Criteria for Closure and Reopening to Admissions for a COVID Outbreak

### CRITERIA FOR CLOSURE TO NEW ADMISSIONS

Below are general criteria for closure to new admissions. If the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and the Skilled Nursing Outreach and Support (SO+S) teams determine that the facility is stable and has an adequate mitigation plan, the facility may be allowed to reopen to new admissions sooner than described below.

1. **One resident infected:** closed until testing of all residents in facility and staff who had contact with patient completed. Can reopen after initial testing if no additional resident cases are identified and source of transmission is identified, but need to repeat testing of residents and close staff contacts at 7\* and 14 days (and will be closed if further resident cases identified). Also recommended to test all staff within 14 days.  
*\*If baseline testing is performed near 7 days since last contact, then 14 day re-test alone is sufficient*
2. **Two or more residents infected:** closed until reopening criteria (described below in Criteria for Reopening to New Admission section) are met.
3. **Staff member(s):**
  - a. Single infected staff member: not closed to admissions. At a minimum, test residents cared for by staff member and close staff contacts at baseline, 7\* and 14 days after last contact
  - b. Two or more staff infected: facilities may be instructed to close to admissions if a cluster (2 or more within 7 days) of infected staff are identified, especially if those staff have significant patient contact. This closure would continue until at least one round of testing of all residents is completed and no evidence of transmission to residents; also test close staff contacts immediately. Second round of testing of all residents and close staff contacts at 7\* and 14 days after last contact recommended as above.

### CRITERIA FOR REOPENING TO NEW ADMISSIONS (MUST MEET ALL 3)

1. At least three (baseline, 7 days and 14 days) or more rounds of weekly screening of all COVID-negative residents/patients in the facility have been completed, and last two rounds have identified no new cases.
2. The facility has established an observation unit for patients who are newly admitted to the hospital to be quarantined for 14 days, as required by AFL 20-53.2<sup>1</sup>.
3. It has been at least two weeks since last resident/patient case was identified, and
4. Staff have been tested within 14 days prior to reopening.

### READMISSIONS DURING COVID OUTBREAK

1. May readmit prior residents who were hospitalized for non-COVID reasons, as long as patient and family is aware of risk of exposure.<sup>2</sup>
2. May readmit COVID-positive patients to facility if space and staffing is sufficient in COVID unit.

<sup>1</sup> California Department of Public Health. All Facilities Letter 20-53.2. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan Recommendations for Testing of Health Care Personnel (HCP) and Residents at Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF). July 31, 2020.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCO/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-53.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> 42 CFR §483.15 (e)(1) and F626 require requires facilities to offer a 7 day bed hold. When the hold has passed the seven days and the facility has no available bed they should offer the first available bed in a semi-private room.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. State Operations Manual Appendix PP - Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities, Revision 173. November 2017.

[https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap\\_pp\\_guidelines\\_ltcf.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf)