Independent and Assisted Living – Admissions and Returns to the Community

Updated April 5, 2021

What’s Changed: Updated guidance regarding fully vaccinated residents who are newly admitted or returning to the community.

Exposure and Post Covid-19

A resident coming from a congregate setting poses a higher risk for COVID outbreak, morbidity and mortality. Due to this higher risk, a resident coming from a congregate setting should be treated as a Person Under Investigation (PUI).

In light of ongoing concerns in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following standards for admission and return of elders to senior living communities has been developed. State recommendations may vary; State standards should be followed as required.

Relaxation of standards for isolation: masking, visitation of family and vendors, will depend on further direction in government regulations.

Independent Living (IL) and Assisted Living (AL) design and physical structural features vary widely from state to state and among each community. Additionally, COVID positive cases and PUI may be handled differently in various scenarios as outlined below. This document offers guidance and options to safely admit or readmit residents into these communities giving IL/AL operators appropriate options.

Fully vaccinated is defined as someone who is two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

For symptoms of Coronavirus, see Symptoms of COVID

For discontinuation of isolation criteria, see Criteria for Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions

New admission from home in the community – no COVID-19 symptoms:

- If AL PUI cohort area or unit is available, quarantine for 14-days and return to general AL community after 14 days if remains asymptomatic.
- If cohort area is not available, shelter in new apartment for 14 days or use cohort area in affiliated facility if available.

The 14-day quarantine/shelter in place period for new admissions is not required for residents who are being admitted to assisted living if they are fully vaccinated and have not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-controlafter-vaccination.html
New admission with no symptoms from non-Trinity long-term care facility where the COVID protocols and outbreak status is unknown:

- Quarantine for 14 days or shelter in apartment for 14 days. May also use the cohort area for quarantine/shelter period.
- The 14-day quarantine/shelter in place period for new admissions is not required for residents who are being admitted to assisted living if they are fully vaccinated and have not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html

New admission with no symptoms from a Trinity long-term care facility where the COVID protocols and outbreak status is known:

- Review clinical information with the Community’s nurse leader/director/manager to determine whether patient requires further quarantine. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may not need to quarantine for 14 days. However, consideration should be given if there was a possibility of prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days.

New admission from hospital – no symptoms:

- If AL PUI cohort area or unit is available, quarantine for 14-day period and return to general AL community after 14 days if no symptoms.
- If no cohort area is available, require a 14-day shelter in apartment at move-in.
- The 14-day quarantine/shelter in place period for new admissions is not required for residents who are being admitted to assisted living if they are fully vaccinated and have not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html

New admission from hospital – COVID positive in convalescence:

- Resident must meet the criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions.
- Admission will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with admission decision contingent on ability to meet the resident's required level of care.

Return of existing resident from hospital including an ER visit (must be consistently masked) – no clinical symptoms of COVID-19:

- 14-day shelter in apartment required upon return unless the resident is fully vaccinated and has not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html
- If symptoms develop during quarantine and the resident should be tested. If a higher level of care is required, transfer to higher level of care PUI or COVID+ cohort unit.
- Return to AL from higher level of care when they have met the criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions.

Return of existing resident from hospital after admission – COVID+:

- If necessary, for symptom management, require resident to enter SNF cohort unit for COVID+ until criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions is met.
- Shelter in apartment until criteria for transmission-based precautions is met.
- Readmission will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with admission decision contingent on ability to meet the resident's required level of care.
- If AL Enhanced (NYS regulatory language), see below.
Return of existing resident from a doctor’s appointment:
- Resident must be masked consistently during transport and appointment.
- If no masking, resident will be required to shelter in apartment for 14 days unless the resident is fully vaccinated and has not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html)

Assisted Living facilities with Enhanced nursing services – COVID positive resident with symptoms:
- Higher level of care may be necessary for symptom management.
- Quarantine in apartment (cohort area if possible) until criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions is met.
- Ensure proper PPE is utilized for all care – see below

Assisted Living – Memory Care (Special Needs in NYS): Special considerations depending on circumstances for memory care or behavioral residents
For the safety of all other residents for situations where the memory care AL resident is not able to be quarantined in their apartment, new admissions will not be accepted unless:
- The resident has been successfully quarantined at another facility for 14 days prior to move-in; OR
- The resident is able to go to a cohort unit for COVID PUI's for 14 days prior to move-in, and following the guidance above; OR
- The resident is able to go to a SNF cohort unit for COVID PUI's following the guidance above.
- The resident is fully vaccinated and has not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html)

Quarantine vs. Shelter in Apartment:
Quarantine means the resident is either a PUI or COVID positive. Quarantine requires proper PPE – see below.

Shelter in apartment requires the resident to stay in their apartment but does not required full quarantine PPE. During quarantine or sheltering the resident should use a procedure mask, if tolerated, for all encounters with other people.

Required PPE: See the PPE Guide Booklet

Residents: The newly admitted patient must wear a procedure mask during all care activities if the patient is able to tolerate a mask. He/she must be room confined.

Independent Living move-ins:
- Residents will be screened and will not be allowed to move in if they have symptoms or a fever in the last 14 days. A move may be scheduled if they clear screening. Resident must shelter in apartment for 14 days upon move-in with no other resident contact. They may leave for walks outside but must maintain a 6-foot distance from all other residents during this time, and mask as required. Shelter in place will not be required at move in for residents who are fully vaccinated and have not had prolonged close contact with someone with

- Note-for all move-ins family must follow visitation guidance at move-in. See Independent Living Indoor Visitation during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Furniture and new resident belongings should be brought to the entrance closest to the apartment by the family/movers, wiped down with disinfectant, and moved in by staff if able.

- If staff are not able to move items into the apartment, the fewest number of people needed to move items should be screened, and then move items in maintaining at least a 6-foot distance from other residents at all times.