Interim COVID-19 Outbreak Definition for Healthcare Settings

Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities
Inpatient Hospitals
Other Healthcare Settings
Outbreak End

Definitions

Long-Term Care Facility:

- Nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities
- Adult family homes
- Assisted living facilities

Inpatient Hospital

An institution, place, building, or agency which provides accommodations, facilities and services over a continuous period of twenty-four hours or more, for observation, diagnosis, or care, of two or more individuals not related to the operator who are suffering from illness, injury, deformity, or abnormality, or from any other condition for which obstetrical, medical, or surgical services would be appropriate for care or diagnosis. This category also includes inpatient psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment facilities, and inpatient substance use disorder facilities.

Healthcare Worker:

HCW refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances (e.g., blood, tissue, and specific body fluids); contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air. HCW include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel).

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Close Contact:

Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a person with laboratory positive COVID-19 for 15 minutes 
OR
Having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the patient (e.g., being coughed on, touching used tissues with a bare hand).

Epi-Linkage in Healthcare Settings:

While in the facility during the 14-days prior to prior to the onset of symptoms:

- An overlap in admission or work assignment on the same unit or ward, OR
- Having the potential to have been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer

Nursing home-onset SARS-CoV-2 infection:

Laboratory positive COVID in a resident that originated in the nursing home. It does not refer to the following:

- Residents who were known to have COVID-19 on admission to the facility and were placed into appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions to prevent transmission to others in the facility.
- Residents who were placed into Transmission-Based Precautions on admission and developed SARS-CoV-2 infection within 14 days after admission.

Long-Term Care Facilities and Residential Care Facilities

This guidance applies to long-term care and residential care facilities that provide a range of health and personal services for aging individuals or people living with physical or behavioral health conditions who need assistance. Residents live in these congregate healthcare settings full-time with overnight stays. This guidance does not apply to hospitals or clinic settings.

Outbreak Definition:

- One resident or HCW with laboratory positive COVID-19 (PCR or antigen test), OR
- Two or more residents or healthcare workers with new-onset respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 72 hours of each other

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Testing in Nursing Homes

CMS requires testing of all HCW and staff if a single new case of COVID-19 is identified in any HCW or any nursing home-onset COVID-19 in a resident.

Inpatient Hospitals

Outbreak Definition

- Two or more cases of laboratory positive COVID-19 (PCR or antigen test) in patients 7 or more days after admission for a non-COVID condition, with epi-linkage
  OR
- Two or more cases of laboratory positive COVID-19 (PCR or antigen test) in HCW with epi-linkage who do not share a household, and are not listed as a close contact of each other outside of the workplace during standard case investigation or contact tracing.
  OR
- A combination of two or more cases of laboratory positive COVID-19 (PCR or antigen test) in HCW and patients with epi-linkage.

Outpatient Healthcare Settings

Outbreak Definition

- Two or more cases of laboratory positive COVID-19 in patients or staff with epi-linkage who do not share a household, and are not listed as a close contact of each other outside of the workplace during standard case investigation or contact tracing

Outbreak End (for all facility types)

- 28 days from the date of the last onset of symptoms
  OR
- From the last positive test of an asymptomatic person, whichever is longer.