

Guidance for Patients Being Admitted After COVID-19 Exposure at a Skilled Nursing Facility

Patient Placement:

- Patients should be geographically collocated in adjacent rooms, if possible.

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Patients should be placed in a surgical mask to be worn at all times
 - Masks should only be removed and discarded for the following reasons:
 - Mask becomes wet, damaged, or soiled
 - Patient eating, drinking, or taking medications
 - Patient's mental status does not allow them to be adherent
- Providers and staff should wear gloves when providing care and perform hand hygiene before and after each patient interaction
- If providers and staff need to be in the patient room when a patient is unable to wear a mask (such as when eating or mental status does not allow), providers and staff should wear a surgical mask, as well as gloves.
 - Provider and staff surgical masks should then be removed and discarded after patient care completed

COVID-19 Testing:

- Testing of asymptomatic patients is not recommended.
- COVID-19 testing should be performed in any patient who develops new cough, fever > 99.9, new dyspnea, or new loss of smell without other neurologic symptoms

Symptomatic Patients:

- Perform COVID-19 testing on any patient who develops new cough, fever > 99.9, new dyspnea, or new loss of smell without other neurologic symptoms, even if the patient had a negative COVID-19 test when they were asymptomatic
- Patients who develop symptoms should be placed on Droplet Precautions, Contact Precautions, and Eye Protection while awaiting results of COVID-19 testing
 - If patient tests positive for COVID-19, consult the VUMC COVID-19 Information website for additional guidance on isolation and treatment

Environmental Cleaning:

- Units should have regular, frequent cleaning of all surfaces on the unit. Workrooms, nursing stations, staff restrooms, and common environments should be included in frequent cleaning practices.