

VUMC Guidance for Patients Being Admitted After COVID-19 Exposure at a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

Patient Screening and Placement:

- All patients exposed to COVID-19 at a SNF should be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 at admission regardless of prior COVID-19 test results
- Patients should be geographically collocated in adjacent rooms, if possible

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Testing for Asymptomatic Patients:

- Patients should be placed in a surgical mask to be worn at all times
 - Patient 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 surgical masks and gloves when providing care
 - Provider and staff surgical masks and gloves should then be removed and discarded after patient care is completed
 - Providers and staff should perform hand hygiene before and after each patient interaction
- 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

PPE and Testing for Symptomatic Patients:

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 - Patient eating, drinking, or taking medications
 - Patient's mental status does not allow them to be adherent
- Patients who present with or develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection 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
- Perform COVID-19 testing on any exposed patient who presents with or 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

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.