



HEALTH ADVISORY: Long Term Care Facility Respiratory Outbreak Guidance

December 11, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this message finds you well.

Benton County Health Department is sharing long term care facility (LTCF) respiratory outbreak guidance. [Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) are reporting increases in respiratory disease transmission (e.g., influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)). To better communicate respiratory outbreak guidance to our LTCF colleagues, this health advisory includes:

1. OHA's October 2023 Respiratory Disease Outbreak Guidelines
2. Benton County Communicable Disease Program (CD) Contact Information
3. CDC Project Firstline COVID-19 Infection Prevention Videos
4. OHA/CDC Respiratory Data

1. OHA's October 2023 Respiratory Disease Outbreak Guidelines

OHA's October 2023 Respiratory Guidelines are available here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGCOMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGGUIDELINES/Documents/respi-iguide.pdf>.

A summary of key points related to LTCFs is below:

- **Section 2.4, Page 2 (Periods of Communicability):** OHA shared a Compendium of Respiratory Diseases. The compendium includes common respiratory diseases with incubation periods, symptoms, transmission, etc. The compendium can also be viewed here: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/OUTBREAKS/Documents/respcompendium.pdf>
- **Section 3, Page 3 (Outbreak Definitions):** Respiratory outbreaks are to be reported if there are two or more individuals epidemiologically (epi) linked during a 7-day period with any of the following:
 - 2 or more lab-confirmed individuals (e.g., residents, staff, visitors)
 - 1 lab-confirmed individual and 1 or more individuals with similar symptoms
 - 2 or more individuals without a lab-confirmed disease but have similar symptoms with a known epi-link
- **Section 5, Page 4 (Outbreak Response):** Severe respiratory outbreak morbidity or mortality is defined as:

- 2 more or more deaths or 3 or more hospitalizations within 2 weeks
- Confirmed pneumonia in 3 or more epi-linked individuals with unknown etiology
- Clusters of new or uncommon signs or symptoms
- **Section 5, Page 6 (Resources):**
 - [Infection control guidance for respiratory pathogens.](#)
 - [At-A-Glance infection control for respiratory pathogens.](#)

2. Benton County Communicable Disease Program (CD) Contact Information

The best way to contact Benton County Communicable Disease Program (CD) is via email:

- cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov

The CD Reporting Email is shared by all CD team members. A CD team member will respond to messages and provide support.

Other options for reaching our CD team include (names listed alphabetically by first name):

- Christina Camacho (Covid/Respiratory Disease Specialist)
 - Email: christina.camacho@bentoncountyor.gov
 - Phone: 541-745-4889
- Gerald Dyer, Jr. (Communicable Disease Program Manager)
 - Email: gerald.dyer@bentoncountyor.gov
 - Phone: 541-766-6654
- Jamie Rodriguez (Communicable Disease Specialist/Infection Prevention & Control)
 - Email: jamie.rodriguez@bentoncountyor.gov
 - Phone: 541-452-3182
- Mary Shaughnessy (Communicable Disease Nurse)
 - Email: mary.shaughnessy@bentoncountyor.gov
 - Phone: 541-602-1821 OR 541-766-6255

3. CDC Project Firstline COVID-19 Infection Prevention Video

CDC has helpful COVID-19 infection prevention videos. These videos provide an overview of COVID-19 transmission, infection prevention, and source control. They can be viewed at the following links:

- How does COVID-19 Spread? https://youtu.be/1LZZz1yMGvY?si=elRZ_8oKJo30fh__
- What Do New COVID-19 Strains Mean for Infection Control? <http://tdurl.co/3/130U>
- What is Source Control? https://youtu.be/9C2wwGm_Su4?si=cqQ9cu-Mk1Of3SKB

4. OHA/CDC Respiratory Data

OHA and CDC have helpful respiratory data dashboards for tracking respiratory diseases. The dashboards links are located below:

OHA:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.public.health.division/acute.and.communicable.disease.pre/viz/OregonsRespiratoryVirusData/TableofContents>

CDC: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/resp-net/dashboard.html>

5. Thank You

Benton County would like to take a moment to share our appreciation to all working and/or living within our nursing home communities. Thank you for your dedication to the health of LTCF staff, residents, and visitors.

On behalf of Benton County, we are wishing everyone the best of health and a happy holiday season.

With gratitude,



April Holland, Public Health Administrator



Dr. Carolina Amador, Public Health Officer