



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

April 20, 2020

Dear Long-term Care Facility Partner,

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) appreciates your collaboration in preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 at your licensed health care institution (“Long-term Care Facility (LTCF)”).*

Based on what we know now, those at [high-risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- **People who live in a LTCF.**
- People 65 years of age and older.
- People of all ages who have underlying medical conditions, particularly when the underlying medical conditions are not well controlled.

COVID-19 spreads easily in the LTCF population and outcomes can be severe. Rates of pneumonia and death are increased in this population as compared to the general population. COVID-19-infected staff and visitors are the most likely sources of introduction into a facility. There is increasing evidence that asymptomatic individuals may spread COVID-19 up to 48 hours prior to symptom onset. **It is critical for your facility to take immediate action to reduce the risk of your residents and staff getting sick with the disease. Strict adherence to visitor restrictions and enforcement of sick leave policies for ill staff is recommended.**

LTCFs have experience managing respiratory infections and outbreaks among residents and staff and should apply the same outbreak management principles to COVID-19. ADHS has developed guidance for LTCF in line with recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with local health partners. Please review the following guidance and implement the recommendations to protect Arizonans at increased risk for severe disease with COVID-19.

Please contact your local health department or the ADHS Office of Infectious Disease Services (602-364-3676) for questions or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cara Christ MD".

Cara Christ, MD, MS
Director, Arizona Department of Health Services

**NOTE: For the purposes of this letter only, a Long-term Care Facility (“LTCF”) includes health care institutions licensed under Title 9, Chapter 10, Articles 4, 5, and 8 (nursing care institutions and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities).*