Isolation - Quarantine - Outbreak COVID-19
Residential Care Facilities

Outbreak

COVID-19 outbreaks are generally defined as two or more cases with a link by place and time indicating a shared exposure outside of a household. Local health departments report the number of new and ongoing outbreaks they are investigating by the setting of the outbreak.¹

Ingham County: An outbreak in a long-term care facility is defined as one or more facility-acquired COVID-19 cases in a resident.²

Threshold for Reporting to Public Health – Report to Ingham County Health Department (ICHD)
- One or more probable or confirmed COVID-19 case(s) in a resident or Healthcare Personnel (HCP).
- Three (3) or more cases of acute illness compatible with COVID-19 in residents with onset within a 72h period.²

Reporting

Report all outbreaks to the ICHD Communicable Disease Unit

Phone M-F 8am-5pm: 517-887-4308    Phone After Hours: 517-342-9987    Fax: 517-887-4379

Quarantine vs. Isolation

Quarantine and isolation are public health practices used to protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. These people may have been exposed to a disease and do not know it, or they may have the disease but do not show symptoms.³

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.³

When to Quarantine, CDC    Quarantine vs. Isolation, definitions, steps to take, poster, CDC

General guidance for caring for a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection

- Monitor Health - For patients with COVID-19 or other respiratory infections, evaluate need for hospitalization. If hospitalization is not medically necessary, home care is preferable if the individual’s situation allows.
- Report within and between healthcare facilities and to public health authorities.
- Quarantine/Isolate resident per established plan (e.g., COVID unit, private room/door closed, limit number of HCP individuals caring for the resident). See patient placement section to establish protocol.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Use PPE per CDC guidelines.
- Test - Collect diagnostic respiratory specimens per MDHHS guidelines.
- Visitation - Manage visitor access and movement within the facility per Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) guidelines.
- Clean and disinfect per environmental infection control protocol.⁴

¹ OUTBREAK REPORTING, MDHHS
² Michigan State and Local Public Health COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures, MI PH Code
³ What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?, HHS
⁴ Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019, CDC