



## CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

### Clinical Services Guidelines at Long Term Care Facilities

The following are guidelines for clinicians providing in person clinical care at Long Term Care facilities in Bexar County during the COVID pandemic.

In accordance with HHSC guidelines which limit persons entering into Long Term Care facilities to essential staff only during COVID, these local guidelines are intended to provide additional detail and clarity from the Bexar County Local Health Authority.

Please refer to the CDC website on the provision of non-COVID care <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html>

As of September 2020, Bexar County has *minimal to moderate community transmission*.

All clinical services provided in person at a Long-Term Care facility should meet the following **criteria of essential in-person care** until further notice:

Services that cannot be adequately provided through remote management or telemedicine and that, if deferred, are *highly likely* to result in patient harm or *may* result in patient harm. This includes:

- Urgent or emergent care
- Certain preventive services such as influenza vaccination
- Diagnostic services that can change the treatment plan
- Post-hospitalization or when there are significant health changes
- Admissions physical examinations; whenever possible, complete the history and ROS remotely to minimize in-person contact
- Services that would prevent the need for transportation of the resident to receive care outside the LTC

**Guidelines for clinicians** who provide in-person services at Long Term Care facilities:

1. Work alone, without outside staff assistance while on-site
2. Must provide in-person services at only one facility (not multiple facilities). If the clinician coordinates with LTC administration before the visit, then the provider can be adequately supported without limiting services to other residents.
3. Must be tested for COVID at the frequency required by CMS for staff. *If clinician has a primary in-person workplace and also visits the LTC in-person, then clinician should be tested weekly at a minimum.* The clinician should make the primary employer aware of their LTC work and notify the employer if a resident in their care becomes positive.
4. Consistently and correctly wear PPE as required of other facility staff based on current transmission rates, outbreak status at the facility and COVID status of resident. Abide by facility protocol for donning, doffing and other infection control procedures.
5. Keep a personal log of contacts at the facility (dates, names), to facilitate contact tracing.



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6. Notify the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District congregate settings team of a positive test result immediately, 210-207-8876 or [COVID19CongregateSettings@sanantonio.gov](mailto:COVID19CongregateSettings@sanantonio.gov).
7. If involved in an outbreak or exposure either at the LTC facility or elsewhere, notify Metro Health of all locations where there was potential exposure.
8. If referring for specialty services, inform secondary service providers of these criteria.

### **Guidelines for Long-Term Care facilities** and commitment to the clinician providing in person care:

1. Provide a copy of this guidance to all clinicians who will provide in-person visits
2. Notify the provider when a resident in their care becomes COVID positive.
3. Notify the provider immediately if there is a facility outbreak, defined as one positive staffer or resident.
4. Provide training on infection control practices at the facility on the first visit and provide oversight to ensure they are adhered to by the provider.
5. Continue to facilitate telemedicine options for care as appropriate by providing staff and equipment.
6. Keep a log of providers who provided in-person care including date of visit and resident visited or be able to pull this information in a report from electronic health record.
7. Document most current test result of provider at each visit
8. If the clinician is unable to obtain COVID testing, N95 fit testing, masks and eye protection through other means (such as their primary employer), then the LTC facility is responsible for these requisite items.