

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) RELATED TO PLAN FOR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES (LTCFs) DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. Will my family and I be told if there is a positive COVID-19 case in my nursing home?

During this public health emergency, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends that residents and families be notified expeditiously by the nursing home when one of more residents test positive for COVID-19.

2. What is a COVID Recovery Facility?

DPH is planning to establish COVID Recovery Facilities.

- *Alternate Care Site (ACS) that will accept COVID-positive patients discharged from the hospital who no longer need an acute hospital level of care, freeing up a hospital bed and have a skilled need or the need for additional support. The ACS would do discharge planning and prepare patients for discharge into the community.*
- *Two COVID Recovery Facilities that are existing nursing homes that will accept patients discharged from the hospital who previously resided in a nursing home. However, the patient was denied re-admission to the original nursing home because of the facility's inability or incapacity to care for this patient who continues to be COVID positive.*

3. If my nursing home is chosen to be a COVID Recovery Facility, will I have to move to another nursing home?

You will be offered the opportunity to transfer to another facility if you do not have symptoms and test negative for COVID-19. If you test positive for COVID-19, your current nursing home will be able to care for you.

The Medical Director and Director of Nursing (DON) will discuss decisions to transfer with residents and their families.

4. Can residents decline the move and opt to take on the risk?

A COVID-negative resident can discuss declining to transfer with the medical director and the DON.

5. Will COVID-positive residents need to move to a COVID Recovery Facility?

COVID-positive residents can be cared for in their current nursing home. If they are hospitalized and ready for hospital discharge to nursing home level of care, they might be discharged to a COVID-designated facility until ready for discharge back to their original facility if possible when COVID-negative.

6. Are residents in nursing homes that are not COVID Recovery Facilities being tested for COVID-19?

The capacity to test nursing home residents for COVID—19 is limited and will be done a priority basis. Residents with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are in the highest priority group for testing.

Residents who are in units designated for COVID-positive residents and who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 are in the next highest priority group for testing. If they are COVID-negative, they can be moved to another part of the nursing home.

Residents pending test results will be moved to a unit or area of your current home for with other residents with pending test results.

7. If I develop a COVID infection, will I be moved within my home?

You will only be moved if you test positive for COVID-19. If you have symptoms but are pending results, you will remain isolated in your current room.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you will be moved to a unit or area of your current home for COVID-positive residents. There is no current plan to move people to another home if they test positive.

If you are hospitalized and ready for hospital discharge to nursing home level of care, you might be discharged to another nursing home other than your own until ready for discharge back to your original home if possible when COVID-negative.

8. Will I be quarantined for 14 days before being blended into the rest of the community?

All newly admitted residents to any nursing home that is a COVID Recovery Facility will be restricted to their room for 14 days.

9. How will I know if I am going to be moved within my home to make room for someone who has COVID19?

The Medical Director and Director of Nursing will discuss this with each involved resident and notify the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, who will guide residents through the process.

10. How much notice will I have?

We will provide as much notice as possible.

11. Who will move my belongings?

The facility is responsible for the transfer of residents' belongings. Based on the infection control guidance it may be necessary to sanitize and store belongings until your return or relocation.

12. Will I get to go back to my original room?

This is a difficult question to answer. Residents who have been moved will eventually get to go back to their original facility if possible. For any residents returning to their original facility, we cannot guarantee that residents will return to their original rooms, but that will happen if the rooms remain vacant.

13. Who will do the moves?

Proper transport will be provided based on residents' medical status.

14. How do residents know that these transferred residents will not contaminate the facility?

Residents will be screened appropriately before transfer and/or undergo a 14-day isolation period upon transfer.

15. Can a family member see a resident who is transferring before or while the move takes place?

Families can video chat and use other technologies to see their loved ones. The no-visitation policy is still in effect.

16. If I move will they know my payment status?

All financial terms remain the same for residents.

17. What if a redetermination is due soon or while I am gone?

If your HUSKY Health benefits were scheduled to end in March or April 2020, DSS will automatically continue your benefits will be through at least June 2020. DSS will continue to extend benefits for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic.

18. Do I work with the business office at my home of origin?

The fiscal department will contact each involved resident and his or her loved ones and will explain the process.

19. If I have OPTUM and I am moved to a Non-Optum home how will that be covered?

Residents' current payer (Medicare Advantage plan or other) will continue to pay for their care.

20. Will I incur any cost?

Your costs will remain the same.

21. Are any of the home ones with VA contracts?

None of the involved homes have VA contracts.

22. What if I am moved from a home with a VA contract that pays 100% of my care?

You payment status will not change.

23. Who do I pay my applied income to?

Residents will continue to pay their applied income to the facility that is providing their care.

24. Will the stimulus check effect my Medicaid status?

We are waiting for confirmation of this, but our best understanding at this time is that the stimulus checks will not affect residents' Medicaid status. The Treasury Department has also commented that people who receive certain public benefits will not have to file a tax

return to receive the stimulus checks. We will confirm this information as soon as is possible.