

June 28, 2021

The Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention (CDC) has issued updated guidance for long term care facilities including assisted living communities. Also, each state has its own executive orders that are to be followed and implemented. Based on this guidance, Solvere Living has issued protocols for its assisted and independent living and memory care communities.

Each state has its own executive orders that are to be followed and implemented. Therefore, Solvere Living has updated its own protocols for each community based on the CDC, federal, state and local guidelines; and the COVID-19 status in each state and local area with the guidance of each state's Department of Health.

The following protocols are effective immediately:

Solvere Living Team Members

All community team members must continue to wear a surgical face mask, at all times, while working at the community. Team members can dine and socialize together in break rooms and remove their masks while eating or drinking but should continue to physically distance as much as possible.

COVID-19 Testing

- Symptom based testing: anyone with COVID symptoms regardless of vaccination status will need to receive a COVID viral test immediately
- Testing after exposure: asymptomatic team members and residents with prolonged exposure to a COVID positive person, regardless of vaccination status, should have a series of two COVID tests (immediately and then five to seven days post-exposure). Team members must stay out of work until two negative COVID test are obtained, and residents must quarantine until two negative COVID tests are obtained.
 - **Prolonged exposure refers to a cumulative time-period of 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period**
- Outbreak testing: testing strategies for communities with outbreaks remain unchanged. Team members and residents, regardless of vaccination status, should have viral tests every three to seven days until no new cases are identified for 14 days.
 - An outbreak is defined as 1 or more cases of COVID-19 in a community either in a resident or in a team member
- Routine testing: fully vaccinated team members are no longer required to undergo routine testing. Unvaccinated team members must continue to be routinely tested based on county positivity rate ([COVID-19 Nursing Home Data | Data.CMS.gov](#)), if required by the state/county.

- Residents and team members who are required to test should not re-test within 3 months of having previously testing positive for COVID-19
- Team members with COVID return to work decisions must be reviewed and approved by the COVID-19 response team prior to the team member being permitted to return to work

Vaccination

- Residents who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear facemasks. Residents who have not been fully vaccinated should continue to wear facemasks.
- Each community should continue to promote and provide opportunities for all team members and residents to get vaccinated. Full vaccination for visitors is always preferred, when possible.
- The community must maintain a list of all fully vaccinated and non-vaccinated residents within each department and update at a minimum weekly

Screening

- Screening for symptoms and exposure must take place for all team members and visitors upon entry into the community
- Anyone who answers “yes” to any of the screening questions or exhibits COVID symptoms will be prohibited from entering the community
- Residents no longer require daily screenings for COVID-19 signs or symptoms

Visitation

Visitation is permitted for all residents **except** in the following circumstances:

- Indoor visitation should be limited solely to compassionate care situations for:
 - Unvaccinated residents if the county COVID-19 positivity rate is greater than 10% and less than 70% of residents in the community are fully vaccinated
 - Vaccinated and unvaccinated residents with COVID-19 infection until they have met criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions per CDC guidance as stated below

Symptom-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions

Residents with mild to moderate illness who are *not* severely immunocompromised:

- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **and** at least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved)

Residents who were asymptomatic throughout their infection and are *not* severely immunocompromised:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test

Residents with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised:

- At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **and** at least 24 hours have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Vaccinated and unvaccinated residents remain in quarantine until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

Communities in outbreak status should follow guidance from state and local health authorities when visitation should be paused. If visitors are permitted at this time, the visitor must be counseled about their potential to be exposed to SARS-CoV-2 in the community during their visit.

Physical Distancing During Visitation

When both residents and their visitors are fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) and not wear masks. However, the visitor should continue to wear masks and physically distance from other team members and other residents and visitors that are not part of their group at all other times while in the community.

If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their unvaccinated visitor(s) however both must continue to wear face masks.

Residents who just Moved or Returned to the Community

- Residents fully vaccinated moving into the community are not required to quarantine. They must provide a copy of their vaccine card which is to be maintained in their resident health record.
- Residents not fully vaccinated are required to present a negative COVID test result within **10** days of their move in date and quarantine for 5 days upon move in. They must re-test and have a negative COVID test on the 5th day or if the 14th day from the first day of the negative COVID test is before the 5th day. If a negative test result is received and they are asymptomatic, the resident is no longer required to quarantine. While quarantining, residents must be screened every 8 hours using the individualized screening tool.

Group Activities and Programming

- If all residents participating in the program are fully vaccinated, then they may choose to have close contact and to not wear a mask during the program
- If unvaccinated residents are present, then all participants in the group activity should wear a mask and unvaccinated residents should physically distance from other residents
- Educating unvaccinated residents about their risks in a group setting must take place

Communal Dining

- Fully vaccinated residents can participate in communal dining without the use of masks and physical distancing
- If unvaccinated residents are dining in the dining room or a communal area, all residents should wear a mask when not eating and unvaccinated residents should continue to remain at least six feet from others

Social Excursions Outside the Community

Residents taking social excursions outside of the community should be educated about the potential risks of public settings, especially if they have not been vaccinated. It is also important to remind residents to avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.

Infection Control

Prevention measures for continued implementation include:

- Hand sanitizers must always be filled
- 11-7 pm shift cleaning of common areas, counter tops, walkers, wheelchairs, etc. are completed
- Ensure assigned and cleaning of common areas and high touch areas at two times a day

Infection Control-Meal Service for residents quarantining or isolating:

- When meals are delivered, gloves are to be changed before entering each individual resident apartment
- Hand sanitizer should be on meal service delivery cart and hands should be washed before entering and after leaving each resident's apartment to deliver a meal

State Specifications

New Jersey

- All unvaccinated team members must continue to be tested weekly
- Vaccine clinics or opportunities to be vaccinated should be offered 1-2 times per month for unvaccinated residents and team members

- Unvaccinated residents no longer need to be tested
- Testing guidelines are partially based on COVID positivity rate in county which should be monitored weekly to identify changes in testing protocol

Texas

- Requirement to screen residents for symptoms and exposure daily