

For additional information:

[www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

1-833-4-ASK-ODH / 1-833-427-5634

Ohio Department of Health Coronavirus Call Center

9 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily

## Information for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities

A new respiratory disease is spreading and there have been instances of it in the United States. The general strategies the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends to prevent the spread of the disease in long-term care facilities are the same strategies homes use every day to detect and prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses like influenza.

### Steps residents can take:

- Stay informed about what your facility is doing to prevent infection.
  - It is important that the facility has a process for notifying residents, family members, and visitors so everyone can take steps to decrease the chance of spreading the infection or getting ill.
- Remind staff to wash their hands often and cough and sneeze into their elbow.
- Use your voice and remind caregivers to practice good hygiene.
- Ask your facility to post signs to encourage good hand hygiene and cough etiquette for staff and visitors.
- Ask your facility about their infection prevention plan and policy for visitors.
- Ask your facility about their staff's sick leave policies in order to ensure that sick staff members are staying home and how they will make sure there are adequate staff to meet your needs.

### Steps families and visitors can take:

- Stay home if you are sick. Visitors can inadvertently spread infections in long-term care settings.
  - If you're unable to visit your loved one in the facility, find creative ways to communicate with them like email, phone calls, FaceTime, or asking a healthy friend or family member to drop by for a visit or to deliver a note.
- Wash your hands, practice good cough etiquette, and observe facility staff to ensure they are doing so too.
- Encourage good hand hygiene by placing alcohol-based hand rub inside your loved one's room, but only after consulting with the Director of Nursing about safety.
- Stay informed about what the facility is doing to prevent infection and ask questions about its infection prevention policies.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control, National Ombudsman Resource Center

Questions or Concerns?

Contact the Ombudsman at 1-800-282-1206 or [OhioOmbudsman@age.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioOmbudsman@age.ohio.gov)