

Ohio Living Statement

Ohio Living has been planning and preparing for a potential spread of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) for several weeks. We are closely monitoring the updates from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and our proactive response will align with their recommendations. Ohio Living's primary focus is the health and well-being of its residents, patients and teammates.

About COVID-19

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus, which has not been previously identified in humans. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found in both animals and humans.

Symptoms

Symptoms of Coronavirus are similar to a respiratory infection and may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. For many it can be a mild illness. However, like the flu and other viruses, it can be severe or even fatal for some.

Older people, those with chronic medical conditions, and those with compromised immune systems are more at risk of developing severe disease. Much is yet to be learned.

How it Spreads

COVID-19 appears to spread most easily through close contact with an infected person (within about 6 feet). It also spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community ("community spread") in some affected geographic areas. Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. However, everyday actions can help prevent the spread of this and other viruses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using an EPA approved cleaner/disinfectant such as Spray Nine. The disinfectant must have surface contact for at least 30 seconds prior to be wiped off.

continued

Ohio Living Statement (cont'd)

Coronavirus Planning & Preparation

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Proactive Measures

We are proactively protecting our residents, patients and staff through added diligence regarding visitor protocols, infection control, and symptom monitoring.

- Limiting visitor traffic to our skilled nursing units, rehab centers, and assisted living, to protect our most medically-vulnerable residents and patients. We are asking visitors to limit visitation to 15 minutes while remaining the CDC recommended six feet away from the resident or patient. We are also asking visitors with symptoms to postpone their visits.
- Increasing education of all staff on droplet precautions and infection control.
- Increasing cleaning and sanitation frequency of common surfaces.
- Keeping tissues and hand sanitizer available.
- Educating all staff on symptoms of COVID-19.
- Monitoring staff, residents and patients for symptoms.
- Pre-admission screening for COVID-19.

We continue to work closely with our partnering pharmacy providers, suppliers, hospitals, physicians' practices, local health departments, state and local associations, ODH and the CDC.

Future Readiness

We will follow all directives from local and state health departments as well as the CDC should an outbreak occur. We anticipate these directives may include:

- Isolation and quarantines
- Hospitalizations
- Further visitor restrictions
- Temporary stop of admissions
- Cancellation of activities or events

For further information and questions, please contact the Public Relations team at Ohio Living:

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Sources

US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
Ohio Department of Health
American Health Care Association
LeadingAge