

Interim Recommendations for Care of Inpatients from Congregate Living Facilities

In response to newly identified outbreaks of COVID-19 in congregate living facilities, DUHS implemented new procedures for patients who are admitted to our acute care hospitals from congregate living facilities. All patients presenting from a congregate living facility should be tested for COVID-19 at the time of presentation to our ED or inpatient facility. Patients will be placed on Special Airborne Contact Isolation until testing returns negative.

Once COVID-19 has been ruled out, asymptomatic patients should then be placed on droplet and contact isolation precautions for up to 14 days as long as they remain hospitalized at Duke. Patients who develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 later in their stay should be placed on special airborne contact isolation and re-tested for COVID-19 consistent with our current testing guidelines in the [COVID-19 document library](#).

Examples of congregate living facilities include:

- Skilled nursing facility
- Assisted living facility
- Group home
- Correctional facility
- Behavioral health hospital

At this time, the following facilities are NOT included in the definition of congregate living facility:

- Long-term acute care hospital (LTAC)
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities

Please refer to [this document](#) for instructions on extended use of face masks for patients on droplet precautions.

NOTE: *These recommendations apply to patients admitted to the acute care inpatient setting. They do not apply to other care settings. These recommendations are subject to change based on our local epidemiology.*