



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency
1080 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Communicable Disease Unit Phone:(831) 454-4114

Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long-Term Care Facilities: COVID-19 Guidance from the Public Health Communicable Disease Unit

The Santa Cruz County's Public Health Division is working hard to protect our community against the impacts of COVID-19, especially those in vulnerable populations and close living arrangements. During this difficult time, the Public Health Communicable Disease Unit wants to work with your team to protect your residents and patients who are most at risk.

This guidance provides skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities with important information on when and how to contact the Public Health's Communicable Disease Unit regarding COVID-19 and links to more information to support your residents and staff.

Please share this guidance with ALL STAFF including your facility's medical director, infection control nurse, and facility manager. We thank you for your support!

The best way to protect residents of skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities is by following the Health Officer Order to Shelter in Place and Order Restricting Non-Essential Personnel. Both orders can be found on www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus under Public Information.

WHEN to contact Public Health

- When the physician has a concern that a patient may have COVID-19.
- When a patient or resident is tested for COVID-19.
- When an employee is tested for COVID-19.
- When a patient, resident, employee or patient contact is positive for COVID-19.
- If a patient or resident is moving from another facility and tested positive for COVID-19.
- If a patient or resident is moving from another facility and is waiting for COVID-19 test results.
- If a patient or resident had contact with anybody who tested positive for COVID-19.

WHO needs to be tested?

- Someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, fever, cough and shortness of breath and needs to be tested is considered a Person Under Investigation (PUI). A PUI could be a resident or patient, an employee, or anyone who might have COVID-19.
- Any PUI must be isolated from other people until the test result returns.

WHAT to have ready when contacting Public Health about a PUI

- Complete a [PUI form](#) **before** calling the Communicable Disease Unit. **Call (831) 454-4114.**
- Fax the completed PUI form to the Communicable Disease Unit at **FAX: (831) 454-5049**

HOW to contact the Public Health Department

- Call the Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 454-4114
 - Monday – Friday 8am-11pm
 - Saturday & Sunday 8am – 5pm
- Explain that you are calling to report a COVID-19 case or Person Under Investigation (PUI)