



Iowa Center for Home Care

What to do if a patient tests positive for COVID-19? - 6/09/2020

- 1. Immediately isolate the patient if they have other members who live in the home.**
Please reference the Guidance for Home Health Agencies on Admissions from and Discharges to Hospitals Related to COVID 19 on our COVID page found [here](#) on steps to take.
- 2. Notify DIA by calling 515-242-5202 which is the Complaint Division who will take the information, or you can email Barb Rasmussen at: barbara.rasmussen@dia.iowa.gov**
Follow any guidance the Department gives you. The reporting numbers are on the top of the [IHCA COVID-19 webpage](#).
- 3. Continue to report on-line daily to your Regional Medical Coordination Center.**
- 4. Go to monitoring the patient daily.**
Check temperature, pulse and respirations as well as a pulse ox daily. Watch for slight variations in condition including increased pulse rate, malaise or increased confusion.
- 5. Identify staff and residents most at risk for exposure.**
Speak with IDPH when you are reporting about what actions you need to take regarding increased screening, PPE use, and isolation of family members, other staff members and other potentially exposed patients.
- 6. Immediately start developing communications plans to inform the staff, and other patients and their family members who could have been exposed. Don't make the mistake of thinking this information should be kept confidential to avoid panic. Word will get out, probably before you even get these plans started or completed. You want to be in front of this story providing correct information and reassuring people of all the measures you are taking to keep everyone involved safe before it hits social or regular media.**
ICHC does not yet have guidance from IDPH on which patients and staff you should notify, so when you call IDPH to report please ask for their guidance.
- 7. Expect a call from DIA within a couple of days of your first report.**
When DIA contacts you expect that they will conduct a joint targeted Infection Control Focused Survey in conjunction with IDPH. Documents to help you prepare for an Infection Control Focused Survey are found [here](#).
- 8. Media – Never agree to a live interview! Use the guidance found in the [IHCA COVID-19 Crisis Response Kit](#) to create written responses.**
- 9. Have dedicated staff who will work with your COVID positive patients.**
Prepare a special staff team to use contact and droplet isolation techniques. Practice using PPE. Check out [CDC Guidance on Conservative Use of PPE](#) in the COVID Crisis Response Toolkit.