

Risk Assessment Template to Assess COVID-19 Exposure Risk for Residents/Clients after Community Visits

This risk assessment template should be used as a framework to guide COVID-19 infection prevention policy and practices surrounding long-term care (LTC) residents following trips into the community. This risk assessment should be adapted as appropriate depending on settings, resource availability, and level of community disease burden. Community visits are not advised for jurisdictions in Phase 1 of [Governor Inslee's Safe Start Plan](#). This tool can be used for both non-medical community activities (e.g., shopping) and medical visits (e.g., dentist). Facilities can use the accompanying letter to residents, clients, families, and friends.

How can I use this risk assessment?

This community activity risk assessment can be used in a variety of ways:

- To develop policy for a list of activities and subsequent interventions common to the facility/home (shopping, dinner out with family, shopping, getting nails done, etc.)
- To assess individual residents/clients as they leave the facility/home for activities.
- To ensure that the proper infection prevention procedures are initiated after a resident/client returns to the LTC facility/home following community activities. Long-term care facilities/agencies should always follow [CDC guidance for Nursing Homes and Long-term Care Facilities](#) and consult with their local health jurisdiction.
- To track and document the frequency that residents/clients that leave the LTC facility/home for community visits.

For any resident/client taking a trip outside of the facility, the facility/agency should:

- Provide the resident/client with any items needed to follow infection prevention recommendations (e.g., hand sanitizer, face covering or mask).
- Educate the resident/client, and friends and family of appropriate precautions as listed above.
- Continue daily symptom screening of residents/clients on their return to their facility/home
- Follow their facility/agency protocol (which may include a 14-day quarantine upon returning to the facility) regarding management of residents/clients who take trips outside of the facility/home, based on their risk assessment and re-opening phase.
- If possible, cohort residents/clients who make frequent trips outside the facility/home.
- Consult with your local health jurisdiction for advice regarding quarantine period upon return to the facility.

Risk Assessment Template

Assign 1 point to each “yes”:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Indoor activity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Unable to maintain social distancing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| >5 people at activity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Duration of activity >1 hour | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Unable to wear a mask during the entirety of the outing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Total score _____ | |

0-1 = **low-risk activity** (ex: walk in an uncrowded park, doctor’s appointment in clinic where universal masking is required)

2-3 = **medium-risk activity** (ex: retail shopping with social distance maintained)

4-5 = **high-risk activity** (ex: eating in a crowded restaurant)

Low-risk: educate on infection prevention, hand hygiene, and respiratory/cough etiquette. Actively screen residents daily for symptoms, before leaving, and after returning.

Medium-risk: all the above and refrain from group activities for 14 days since most recent exposure.

High-risk: all in low and medium risk and place in quarantine for 14 days since most recent exposure

Dear Residents, Clients, Families, and Friends:

We are committed to keeping our residents and clients safe and we need your help. The virus causing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (abbreviated COVID-19) can cause outbreaks in long-term care facilities and residential homes. Many of our residents and clients are in the high-risk group for COVID-19 and may have medical conditions putting them at a very high risk of becoming sick, or even severely ill, with COVID-19. For the safety of your loved one and our community, we encourage you to consult with the facility or agency staff before taking trips into the community.

When taking trips into the community, residents and clients should:

- Wear a face covering or face mask at all times, if possible.
- Clean hands frequently, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
- Instruct family members and friends to pick them up at the front door and do not come inside.
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from others as much as possible while in the community.

Friends and family members accompanying residents and clients should:

- Wear a face covering or face mask at all times, if possible.
- Clean hands frequently, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
- Be aware of potential risks of taking trips into the community, including a potentially increased risk of COVID-19 for your friend or family member as well as a risk of introducing COVID-19 into the facility/home.
- With your friend or family member's permission, keep a log of activities to allow for contact tracing if cases are identified.

The facility or agency should:

- Provide the client/resident with any items needed to follow infection prevention recommendations (e.g., hand sanitizer, face covering or mask).
- Educate clients, residents, and friends and family of appropriate precautions as listed above.
- Continue daily symptom screening of the client/resident on their return to the facility
- Follow their facility or agency protocol (which may include a 14 day quarantine upon return) regarding use of PPE or other universal source control with people who take trips to the community, based on their risk assessment and re-opening phase.
- If possible, cohort residents or clients who make frequent community trips. Consult with your local health jurisdiction for advice regarding quarantine period upon return to the facility or their home.