

## REOPENING GUIDANCE

# Home Health Care

The following is intended as a plain language summary of rules for reopening in the Green Phase and does not replace the need to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

### See also:

[CDC Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for COVID-19.](#)

[PA COVID-19 Information for Health Care Facilities.](#)

## Protections Needed



### Masks

- Employers must provide appropriate PPE to workers, including surgical masks, face shields, and gloves.
- Home health workers must be masked when inside of clients' homes. If taking breaks/meals inside a client's home, the worker must stay at least 6 feet from others in the home.
  - Note that home healthcare workers should wear surgical masks and consider also wearing a face shield. Cloth masks are not appropriate for use by healthcare workers.**
- Ask all those in the home to mask while home healthcare workers are on site.



### Isolate

- Screen every employee for symptoms before every shift or have each employee complete a self-checker and prevent them from remaining on site if they have cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, or new loss of taste or smell.
- It is not necessary to conduct on-site temperature measurement for staff. If you measure temperatures, use a no-touch thermometer, and do not allow anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher to remain on-site.

- Have sick leave policies in place so that employees excluded from the workplace do not lose earnings.
- If an employee develops COVID-19 infection or has a positive test, businesses and other organizations must take additional precautions to stop the virus from spreading further, as described in [Guidance for Essential Businesses and Organizations During COVID-19](#). Required precautions include calling PDPH at 215-685-5488 to report positive cases.



### Distance

- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others in the home besides the patient when making home visits.



### Handwashing

- Employers must provide hand sanitizer to workers for use before and after all patient visits.
- Home health workers should perform hand hygiene before entering each client's home, after entering the home before conducting patient care, as needed throughout the visit, and after leaving the home.
- Note that hand hygiene should be performed before and after touching the mask whether inside or outside of the client's home.



### Clean

- Wipe down high-touch surfaces with disinfectant at least every 4 hours. See [CDC guidance](#) for details.



### Communicate

- Educate employees about symptoms and prevention of COVID-19.
- Remind all employees to:
  - Stay home if they are sick or have had contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
  - Cover coughs or sneezes.
  - Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
  - Wear masks (see above).