

VNA Screening Policies

At VNA, patient care is our priority, so we are committed to patient safety and strong adherence to our infection control policy. It is also our goal to respect the policies of our partner facilities. The following is our screening plan for COVID-19 for VNA staff, volunteers and for our patients, derived from the CDC and CMS.

How should providers screen patients for COVID-19 in a hospice that provides short-term inpatient care directly (homes or facilities) or in an inpatient unit at another facility?

Patients or representatives should be asked about the following prior to admission (referral) and before VNA staff goes out to see a patient for the first time, as well as with any existing patients (RN or LVN needs to complete). Complete survey by phone prior to visiting in case precautions need to be taken:

1. International travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. (*Japan, China, South Korea, Italy, Iran as of 3/11/2022)
2. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever, cough, and sore throat.
3. In the last 14 days, has had contact with someone with or under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness?
4. Residing in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.

Document findings in Netsmart and email team if ANY positive responses. Notify a manager immediately if there are any positive findings for guidance on how to proceed. Email team that screening is complete so as not to duplicate screening.

How should hospice programs monitor or restrict health care staff or hospice volunteers?

- Health care providers (HCP) and volunteers who have signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection should not report to work.
- Anyone who develops signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection while on the job, should: Immediately stop work, put on a facemask, and self-isolate at home; Inform the hospice's infection control manager/team to include information on individuals, equipment, and areas the person came in contact with; and have your manager contact and follow the local health department recommendations for next steps (e.g., home isolation, testing, locations for treatment).
- Refer to the CDC guidance for exposures that might warrant restricting asymptomatic health care personnel or volunteers from reporting to work (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>). Hospices should contact their local health department for questions and frequently review the CDC website dedicated to COVID-19 for health care professionals: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>).

It is mandatory to report employee illness to your manager and Quality immediately upon detection.