

## GUIDANCE FOR

# CONGREGATE LIVING SETTINGS

*WITH PRECAUTIONS FOR RESIDENTS AND STAFF*

In accordance with the Governor’s announcement, Salt Lake County recommends congregate living facilities follow strict guidelines to help prevent the spread of infectious disease. As outlined in the state’s [Utah Leads Together 2.0 plan](#), resuming operations should be delayed until establishments meet all recommended safety conditions. It is critical for the health of all Salt Lake County residents that operators, clients, patients, and guests understand and comply with these requirements.

Congregate living facilities—including resource centers, behavioral health facilities, long-term care facilities, and any other facility that houses people in a setting with communal areas—should do the following:

- **Keep an appointment log.** Record appointments/visitors (if facility is not on lockdown) and maintain visitor/guest contact information so public health may contact them in case of exposure to COVID-19.
- **Exclude ill staff/clients/patients/guests/residents.** Managers must monitor themselves and all employees at the beginning of their shift for symptoms. Screen all visitors upon entering the facility by asking about symptoms, travel, and any sicknesses in the home. Facilities should also post signs in all areas that advise staff/clients/patients/guests/residents to notify a manager if they are experiencing fever, cough or difficulty breathing. SLCoHD will provide signage online that facilities may print and use.
- **Wear face coverings.** Staff/clients/patients/guests/residents should always wear face coverings over the nose and mouth to effectively reduce the spread of respiratory droplets.
- **Enforce physical distancing.** Placement of workstations should ensure social distancing of at least 6 feet, and waiting areas must encourage distancing, as well.
- **Disinfect public areas frequently.** Proper sanitization is essential. This includes disinfecting all high-touch surfaces, including tables, chairs, restrooms, door handles, and floors. The same process should be followed at the close of each day (if applicable). The establishment must use disinfectants/sanitizers effective against COVID-19 (approved list at [EPA.gov](#)). Use disposable cleaning supplies if possible (towels, mop heads, etc.); reusable supplies must be laundered daily. All existing applicable health regulations also apply.
- **Limit on-site staff.** Encourage staff to work off-site as much as possible to limit exposure to clients. Make use of telephone and teleconference options as much as possible.
- **Limit residential clients from going off-site.** Keep clients on-site as much as possible to avoid community exposure.
- **Isolate exposed, sick, or positive clients.** Help isolate clients who display COVID-19 symptoms, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have been confirmed as having COVID-19.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet summarizes key recommendations for congregate living settings. Additional information is available in the state’s [Utah Leads Together 2.0 plan](#), or by calling the Salt Lake County Health Department at 385-468-INFO (4636).

Salt Lake County Health Department promotes and protects community and environmental health

[saltlakehealth.org](http://saltlakehealth.org)