COVID-19 DECISION GRID



\*Transmission rate is effective the date listed below – verify transmission rate w/ facility on the day of the survey.

\*Surveyor document facility transmission rate in *Findings* in Standards Manual.

**Facility** #  **The Community Transmission Rate is**:  **Date**:

1st <https://www.statsamerica.org/CityCountyFinder> and then [identify the CDC Community Transmission Rate by county](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=Risk)



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| **Key Area** | **Low Community Transmission Rates** | **Medium Community Transmission Rates** | **High Community**  **Transmission Rates (Required)** | **Guidance For Surveyors** |
| Temperature and symptom assessment  for staff, patients, and visitors | Patients should be asked on arrival if they have had contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19. | Screening patients for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 *is*  *recommended*. | Temperatures should be checked, and patients questioned regarding any COVID-19 symptoms (visitors should be restricted). | 1. Review policy and procedures. Determine the sources used to develop policy and procedures. 2. Ask facility to detail state and local requirements/guidance. The more stringent recommendations/requirements apply. 3. Review the facility log documenting weekly local and community transmission rates. 4. Determine what actions the facility is taking in response to changing local and community transmission rates. 5. Observe staff, patient, and visitor interactions to determine if the facility is appropriately adjusting its practices based on changing local community transmission rates and its policies and procedures. |
| Masking for patients & visitors and staff | May wear if staff, patients, or visitors are high risk, but masking is not required | 1. Patient and visitor masking is *recommended.* 2. Staff masking is   *recommended.* | 1. Masking is required for everyone in the facility. 2. Require staff wear eye protection/face shields, PPE as appropriate. |
| Hand Hygiene | Encourage staff, patients, and visitors to perform hand hygiene, either hand washing or use of hand sanitizer, upon entry to the facility. | Require staff, patients, and visitors to perform hand hygiene, either hand washing or use of hand sanitizer, upon entry to the facility. | Require staff, patients, and visitors to perform hand hygiene, either hand washing or use of sanitizer, upon entry to the facility. | 1. Observe facility hand hygiene activity and compliance. Is this addressed in their policies and procedures? 2. Observe and review policy and procedure (facility can present to surveyor their state guidelines to support their decision). |
| Cleaning and disinfecting | Routine schedule | More frequent cleaning, especially high touch areas to include phones, door handles, counters etc. | Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of facility high-touch areas including phones, handles, counters, etc. | 1. Review cleaning schedule. 2. Observe staff to determine if cleaning and disinfecting of high touch point areas are implemented appropriately between patient care visits, according to transmission rate. 3. Review materials safety data sheets (MSDS) of cleaning agents used to determine appropriateness. |
| Social distancing of patients and visitors | No restrictions | Social distancing is recommended.  Visitors are permitted. | Only patients are permitted in the waiting room; social distancing is recommended. | Observe staff, patients, and visitors for compliance. |
| Magazines, toys and coffee or snack station | Permitted | Remove magazines and toys; snacks must be individually wrapped. | Not permitted. | Observe the waiting room set-up. |
| State or local guidelines for testing patients pre-operatively for COVID-19 should be followed.  Facilities must be able to speak to their policies and procedures and cite resources used.  \*CDC recommends use of [COVID-19 Community Levels](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=CommunityLevels) to determine the impact of COVID-19 on communities and to take [action](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html). CDC also provides [Community Transmission Levels](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=Risk) to describe the amount of COVID-19 spread within each county.  \*Healthcare facilities use Community Transmission Levels to determine [infection control](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html) interventions. *(rev. 1/2023)* | | | | |