



What is Covia doing about COVID-19?

As the news about Coronavirus, or COVID-19, spreads as fast or faster than the virus itself, we wanted to share the steps that Covia is taking to prevent viral infections – not just COVID-19, but the flu, pneumonia, and other diseases.

What Covia is doing:

Covia is experienced in providing infection control. Each Life Plan/Multi-Level Community has a dedicated Infection Preventionist on staff, responsible for developing a community response plan built on best practices and current recommendations. In the current situation, each community is following the local, state and federal health authority guidance on prevention, case definition, surveillance, treatment and facility response related to COVID-19.

All Covia staff are trained regularly on injury and illness prevention. Each year, Covia provides flu shots to staff free of charge or reimburses staff who receive the flu vaccine. Although no vaccine currently exists for COVID-19, Covia is providing staff with additional resources related to preventing the spread of the virus, and taking extra care to ensure that staff stay home when they are sick.

Finally, Covia's Risk and Clinical team members are in contact with public health officials and provide regular updates and information to leaders throughout the organization. Sources include the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and others.

At this time, these sources advise the ordinary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viral infections:

- Wash hands regularly, taking at least 20 seconds to wash with soap and water.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Cough into the crook of the arm and cover mouth and nose when sneezing.
- Sick residents or staff should stay home and get medical attention. We encourage residents to order tray service if they are unwell.
- Maintain "social distances" of a few feet near people who show symptoms.
- Clean high touch surfaces such as phones, door handles, and hand rails.

If this changes, we will update our procedures and keep you informed. Please also see the attached handout from the World Health Organization for a basic overview.