

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



For additional information:
www.coronavirus.ohio.gov
1-833-4-ASK-ODH / 1-833-427-5634
Ohio Department of Health
Coronavirus Call Center

Guidelines for Owners and Managers of Senior Affordable Independent Housing Communities

This guidance is supported by the Interim Guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on March 20, 2020 entitled: *“Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities (Interim Guidance)”*. This document can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/retirement/guidance-retirement-response.html>

Senior Affordable Independent Housing Communities are communities that are designated for the elderly and that receive assistance either in operational support and/or resident rental assistance from public programs like the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. The elderly live independently but many need supportive services from community providers and their on-site service coordinators. The residents of these communities are at risk as they are mostly 65 years of age and older and have more chronic health conditions and support needs than their peers.

The following guidelines should be established for these communities:

- Cancel all public or non-essential group activities and events;
- Limit entrance to the community to essential visitors;
- Place signs on each entry door to the building that announces no visitors except professional home health care, health care providers, spiritual care, unpaid caregivers performing essential health and safety tasks or delivering necessary services and supplies and government officials and only vendors that provide health and safety services or provide essential services to prepare a unit for a new resident;
- Owners/Managers can provide informational print materials to residents, and post highly-visible posters in high-traffic locations. You can order [free posters](#) here. You can also find and print posters at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>;
- Owners/Managers can develop and implement a process for screening employees working in these buildings for signs and symptoms of COVID-19;
- Owners/Managers can coordinate with local health officials if they are aware that a resident or housing community employee has COVID-19;
- Owners/Managers can assure that shared areas of the community are cleaned and disinfected thoroughly each day. Guidance to do this can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>.