



To: Residential Care Facility for the Elderly Administrator or Skilled Nursing Facility  
Point of Contact

Date: January 5, 2021

Subject: Lifting requirement of single room for new admissions.

On August 11, 2020 a letter was issued with the requirement that a Facility, as a condition of accepting new admits, must be able to provide an adequate quarantine environment which includes remaining in a single room throughout the quarantine period. In midst of the current surge of COVID-19 cases throughout California, many hospital systems are entering into crisis capacity and California hospitals, including hospitals in the Contra Costa County, need to have the ability to discharge patients to lower levels of care to aid in decompressing hospital systems. California has issued a state Health Officer Order to aid in transfers and decompression of hospital systems:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Hospital-Surge\\_1-5-2021.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Hospital-Surge_1-5-2021.aspx)

Hospitals and accepting facilities, such as Skilled Nursing Facilities, should follow the current California Health Officer Orders in place during crisis capacity situations.

Additionally, to aid in the ability to move patients out of the hospital, when appropriate for discharge, single rooms will no longer be a requirement for new admissions into Skilled Nursing Facilities, who are not in an outbreak, in Contra



Costa County. As much as possible, facilities should continue to reserve single rooms for new admits, but new admissions can be accepted into facilities without single rooms available. Facilities will need to continue to place new admissions into a 14-day quarantine using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for these patients. If a facility is experiencing an outbreak and has been cleared to admit new Non-COVID patients, these new admits should be placed into a single room for their quarantine period. A single room is not required for new COVID positive admissions for facilities experiencing an outbreak and facilities may cohort these patients in the same room, as appropriate, in their red zone.

For further guidance on discharges into Long-Term Care Facilities please also review:

<https://cchealth.org/covid19/clf/pdf/Guidance-for-Hospitals-Receiving-and-Discharging-a-Patient-from-LTCF.pdf>

Thank you for your continued partnership with us in providing care and protection to the most vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely,



Chris Farnitano, MD

Health Officer, Contra Costa County

