

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



Advance care directives – Legal documents that allow a resident/patient/client to articulate in writing their decisions about end-of-life care.

Care partners – Individuals (friends, unmarried partners, etc.) who provide care to residents but are not technically family members.

CDC – U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CMS – U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services

Cohort – A group of residents/patients/clients who are grouped together (generally due to similar characteristics). For this playbook, “cohort” refers to people who are COVID+, COVID-negative, or who have been exposed to COVID-19 and their status is unknown.

Congregate living facilities – A broad term for a range of facilities in which people live at or stay at a facility in which they are provided with care. Congregate living facilities in Contra Costa County include, but are not limited to: skilled nursing facilities (SNF), adult residential facilities (ARF), adult residential facilities for persons with special health needs (ARFPSHN), enhanced behavioral supports homes, group homes, hospice care, intermediate care facilities (ICF), residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFE), social rehabilitation facilities, and short-term residential treatment programs (STRTP).

COVID+ – Refers to people who have tested positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) and who have not (yet) cleared their current infection.

EMS – Emergency Medical Services

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Family and resident councils – Formal or informal groups of family members of people living in congregate living facilities (in the case of family councils); groups of residents (in the case of resident councils); or groups of family members and residents (in the case of family and resident councils). These councils generally provide a way for families and/or residents to keep up to date on what’s happening in the facility and offer a mechanism to advocate for improvements in the quality of care. Not all congregate living facilities have family and/or resident councils.

Infection preventionist – A designated professional within a congregate living facility who ensures that staff and residents/patients/clients are adhering to all requirements and guidelines to prevent infections.

Isolation carts – Generally mobile carts with PPE and related equipment to help prevent the spread of infections.



Memory care units – Units within a congregate living facility that provide intensive, specialized care for people with dementia or other memory issues.

POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) – Refers to Portable Medical Orders. POLST may refer to a process, a conversation, and/or a form:

- **A process** – a part of advance care planning, which helps residents/patients/clients live their best life possible and have their medical wishes carried out.
- **A conversation** between a provider and resident/patient/client to understand and make decisions about medical conditions, treatment options, and resident wishes.
- **A medical order form** that travels with a resident/patient/client (called a POLST form).

PPE – Personal protective equipment is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause injuries and illnesses. In this playbook, PPE refers to equipment used to prevent exposure to COVID-19.

Shift supervisor – A generic name for the head nurse, administrator, or similar position during a specific time of day (e.g., morning supervisor, night supervisor, etc.). Different congregate living facilities will have different names for these roles.

SNFs – Skilled nursing facilities

Vitals - Measurements of the body's most basic functions. The four main vital signs are body temperature, pulse rate, respiration rate and blood pressure.

Zones (red, yellow, green) – In this playbook, zones are areas for residents/patients/clients, demarcated in the following way:

- **Red zone:** area for residents who are COVID+ and have not cleared their infection.
- **Yellow zone:** area for residents who have been exposed, residents with unknown exposure (PUI: patient under investigation), and exposed residents who have tested negative. Isolation rooms are included in the yellow zone.
- **Green zone:** area for residents who are COVID-negative and have no known exposure AND residents who were previously COVID+ and have since cleared their infection.

