

Communal Dining

Open and Ready to Serve?



While we understand how important the dining experience is for our seniors, there are several factors we need to consider as we begin to open our dining rooms.

Rearrange Dining Rooms

Ensure that tables and walkways for residents and staff are at least six feet apart

Stagger Mealtimes

Instead of one meal serving all residents, schedule 2 meal service times, serving care units separately

Symptomatic Residents

Any resident currently testing positive for COVID-19 or in transmission-based precautions should not participate in communal dining programs*

Wear Masks

Residents should wear their face masks into the dining room and only remove them when they have been seated and their meal is served to allow them to eat and drink

Screen Residents

Provide screening of each resident prior to entering the dining area (i.e., signs and symptoms of infection, temperature checks)

Sanitize Hands

Provide hand sanitizing stations at the entrance of the dining room and hand sanitizer on each table

** Per the CDC recommendations, health department guidance as well as facility policy, these residents must continue to dine in their rooms.*



Table Mates

Residents sitting together at a table must be roommates or spouses

Cleaning

Ensure all chairs, tables and condiment bottles are cleaned and sanitized in between meals/service times

Local Case Number

Keep current on the community and number of COVID positive cases (county positivity rate) and deaths

Update Policy

Your policy should include when dining rooms may need to be closed as a result of an uptick in cases in the surrounding community

Alternate Food Service

In the event dining rooms must remain closed, consider setting up food service/steam tables on each hallway where residents can be served by a staff member and care aides can escort the resident to their apartment or designated eating area on their hall

Disposable Flatware

Consider using to-go/disposable containers for food being transported to resident rooms for dining to limit the need for staff to clear dirty dishes, silverware, etc. from each resident room

Socialize

As always, be social, include soft music, have staff circulate between tables to interact with residents and assist with dining