

## Guidelines for Resuming In-Person Assessments

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To protect the health and welfare of applicants, their families, and assessors, following the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) regarding the COVID-19 virus is essential.

Until the issuance of further guidance from the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL), assessors may complete assessments telephonically under the following circumstances:

- The consumer refuses an in-person assessment.
- The consumer or a household member has tested positive or had recent known exposure to COVID.
- Limited access to the consumer due to facility visitation restrictions.

Assessors should complete the COVID-19 Health Screening form for applicants when they have scheduled assessments to occur in person in the community.

- If any of the items on the COVID-19 Health Screening form have a “yes” response, indicate that at this time, a telephonic assessment may be a safer way to proceed.
- If all COVID-19 Health Screening form items have a “no” response, schedule the in-person assessment.
- Regardless of the outcome, add the COVID-19 Health Screening form to the applicant’s PIA record as an attachment.

On the day of the scheduled in-person assessment, assessors should contact the applicant to:

- Confirm there is no change in status for the COVID-19 Health Screening.
  - If there is a change, offer to reschedule the in-person or telephonic assessments.
  - If rescheduled, assessors should indicate in PIA that the delay reason is “Participant/participant family member requests a delay.”
- After confirmation of no change in health status, assessors should:
  - Strongly suggest those in residence wear a face mask at the time of the assessment unless there is a medical reason for not wearing one.
  - Ask if the consumer needs face masks and prepare to bring them if needed.

When conducting in-person assessments, assessors should:

- Follow all applicable CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines
- Be equipped to provide all appropriate safety and hygiene supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, etc. if necessary)
- Maintain social distancing within the residence.
- Indicate that because of the COVID-19 virus, the applicant may give the assessor verbal permission to sign the completed assessment in PIA on their behalf. How AAAs handle obtaining signatures is at the discretion of the AAA.
- Treat a refusal to provide consent in the same manner as a refusal to sign before the COVID-19 pandemic by withdrawing the FED.