

WHITEPAPER

Protecting Senior Care Facilities



Accushield®
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Senior living communities and skilled nursing facilities (collectively referred to as senior care facilities in this paper) make up a large and growing sector of the nation's economy. The assisted living facility market reached \$83.2 billion in 2020 and is expected to grow 5.3% per year over the next six years.¹ Skilled nursing facilities were valued at \$173.8 billion in 2020, with projected growth of 2.8% per year over that same period.² While the number of nursing homes has been relatively stable, the number of assisted living facilities nationwide is growing substantially each year.³

Each of these facilities has a community of residents, skilled nurses, healthcare workers, and administration and staff. Each of these groups faces its own unique challenges, and the coronavirus and COVID-19 pandemic has amplified those challenges exponentially. Nurses and healthcare workers must exercise extreme levels of caution and learn new protocols. Administration and staff must handle new cases and implement sweeping changes to policy. And both must keep a close eye on new developments within and surrounding their facility.

83.2 Billion

2020 Assisted Living Facility Market

The health of senior care communities hinges on the ability to keep accurate track of those individuals entering and leaving the facility. It only takes a single infected individual to become a superspreader among this most vulnerable age group. Furthermore, proper screening is the first line of defense against threats like crime, theft, and other malicious visitors. An effective monitoring system has become indispensable to ensuring safety for seniors.

This whitepaper examines the needs of senior communities in the era of COVID-19, the current limitations on safety, and how adopting health screening technology and kiosks can provide significantly higher safety for senior living communities and skilled nursing facilities.

Benefits of Increased Security in Senior Care Facilities

Over the past decades, and particularly in recent years, senior care facilities have required an increasing amount of security. The following are benefits of adopting health screening technology as a security measure in senior care facilities:

Powerful COVID-19 and Illness Tracking

More than 81% of COVID-19 deaths occur in people over age 65, and residents and staff at long-term care facilities have accounted for a staggering 31% of all COVID-19 deaths as of the end of June 2021.⁴ That places them among the highest per-capita COVID death demographics.⁵

One of the best ways to prevent infection and tragedy from COVID-19 in senior care facilities is to track visitors (should you include “and staff”), ensuring they have been vaccinated, have negative test results, and undergo daily health screening before entering the facility. Facilities using conventional methods are unable to monitor this effectively, but health screening technology and kiosks allow them to adopt cutting-edge monitoring in little time.

As the emergence of Omicron and other variants suggest, the pandemic is likely to endure in some form. However, facilities also need to guard against other common illnesses, such as influenza. Tracking capabilities will be important regardless of the prevalence of coronavirus or COVID-19.

High Screening Capacity With No Additional Staff

Traditionally, implementing the level of tracking now available through tech solutions would have required employees to work continuously. However, with budget cuts and staff shortages an ever-present reality, health screening technology and kiosks allow facilities to perform millions of health and safety checks each day without requiring a single new hire.

Screening systems keep senior care facilities better protected while bringing peace of mind to residents, families, and staff. Adopting a technology-powered screening solution allows facilities to provide those services with less impact on their budget and without the administrative and training burden of new hires.

Keep Out Unwanted Visitors

Incidents of violence against residents of nursing homes and other senior care facilities are more common than most people know. In Dallas, a man is believed to have killed 18 women who were residents of senior living communities.⁶ A study in Minnesota found hundreds of cases of assault and theft against senior care facility residents.⁷

Using a technology solution to monitor visitors not only keeps track of individuals entering and leaving but also discourages potential criminals from trying to infiltrate facilities in the first place. It is an essential measure for reducing crime in senior care facilities, keeping residents safe, providing family members with peace of mind, reducing potential costs, and preserving a facility's reputation.



How Accushield Improves Safety and Security

As the leading provider of health screening technology, Accushield equips facilities with a streamlined, hands-free suite of capabilities to dramatically improve the health and safety protocols of senior living communities and skilled nursing facilities.⁸

Sign-In Kiosk and Temperature Check

Before entering the facility, a touchless temperature scanning and health screening kiosk tracks COVID-19 data for all staff, third-party caregivers, visitors, and residents each time they enter and exit the facility. This technology includes:

- Touch-free forehead temperature scan
- Full integration with kiosk sign-in process
- Infrared and thermal thermometer options

Vaccine Card and Test Verification

Operators in senior care facilities can collect and verify vaccine cards and negative test results using the kiosk through several methods:

- Using the free Accushield Mobile App, which staff, visitors, and third-party caregivers can download.
- Using the kiosk, which can take a photo of the vaccine card or negative test result so that management can approve or deny it.
- Using the Accushield web-based dashboard, which allows facility managers to upload an approved document.

Touchless Sign-In With Mobile

Touchless technology is vital to stopping the spread of viruses like COVID-19. Accushield's all-in-one touchless sign-in and health screening solution captures temperatures, asks screening questions based on CDC guidelines, and tracks sign-in/sign-out data for visitors, staff members, and third-party caregivers.

Use of the Accushield Mobile App allows facilities to have peace of mind knowing that contact issues will be traceable and preventable while eliminating the need for everyone to touch the kiosk screen.

Customizable Screening Questionnaire and Visitor Consent Form

Operators can create a completely customized screening questionnaire for all visitors, staff, and third-party caregivers to complete before entering the facility. Health screening questions can also be part of the sign-out process.

Senior care facilities navigating new reopening processes may be required to obtain an informed consent form from visitors, which for example makes them both acknowledge the risk of COVID-19 exposure and agree to follow management's requirements.

Visitor and Staff Data Reporting

Operators can use the Accushield sign-in and health screening dashboard to pull real-time health status information for anyone in the building — staff, visitors, residents, and third-party caregivers. Some real-time health screening reports available include:

- Sign-in reports
- Temperature reports
- COVID-19 screening questionnaire reports
- Resident sign-out reports
- Resident-visitor interaction reports

Name Badge Printing

All visitors, agency and contract workers, staff, and vendors who complete the sign-in and required screening processes will instantly receive a printed name badge. This offers an additional layer of security for senior care facilities and serves as a visual confirmation that everyone wearing the daily-use name badge has been properly screened and signed into the system.



NHSN Reporting

Skilled nursing facilities can automate capturing key requirements for NHSN reporting through the use of Accushield's sign-in and health screening kiosk. The kiosk helps automate NHSN reporting, aiding facilities in several ways:

- It instantly captures vaccine records, type of vaccine, date(s) of doses, and proof of vaccination for every person entering the facility.
- It automatically reports how many people of each user type enter the facility each week.
- It pulls COVID-19 vaccine reports for easy upload to the NHSN reporting website, including healthcare providers who are eligible to receive a booster.



Accushield Helps Facilities Meet Regulatory Challenges

Skilled nursing facilities and senior living communities differ in several key ways. The first is that federal regulations require a set number of nursing home staff to meet patients' needs. These skilled nursing facilities are also subject to a number of other federal and state regulations.⁹

Recent regulations require all staff and employees at skilled nursing facilities be fully vaccinated by either February 28 or March 15, 2022 depending upon the state.¹⁰ This requirement is to stay in effect for a minimum of three years.

Facilities must be able to track information for all their employees and staff and report weekly to the NHSN or face a \$1,000 fine, escalating each week during which required data is not submitted.

However, many facilities are not equipped to take on this additional workload. Accushield solves this problem by automating the collection and reporting of key NHSN data points, letting facility operators focus on what's most important: the health, happiness, and safety of their residents and employees.

How Accushield Has Helped Communities

Accushield provides the most innovative and comprehensive solution for senior living communities and skilled nursing facilities in the age of COVID-19.

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Accushield's [5-Star Safety Rating](#) is recognized as the industry standard for safety in senior care facilities. 5-Star Safety Rated communities have demonstrated exceptional levels of care in health safety and visitor management using health screening technology.

The Accushield [Vaccine Verification Kiosk](#) is but one example of how this technology fortifies facilities against infection. Its features include the ability to:

- Sign in via a touch-free QR Code
- Require users to complete a screening questionnaire for COVID-19 symptoms
- Capture and approve COVID-19 vaccination cards
- Capture and approve COVID-19 test results
- Capture and approve religious or medical exemption vaccine forms
- Agree to Informed Consent forms
- Select whether visiting a staff member, resident, or attending an event
- Continued informing of possible COVID-19 contact

Facilities in all 50 states have implemented Accushield's sign-in technology to protect the health and safety of their residents and staff. Among them:

Civitas Senior Living, Atlanta. **“By using the Accushield system to screen outside essential healthcare personnel and staff, we are lessening the risk that our residents and staff will be exposed to the virus.”**¹¹

- Cooper Vittitow, co-founder and president

Belmont Village, operator of 31 senior living communities. **“The Accushield system is a much more sophisticated way of doing (safety and security screening), and it gives communities more control with regard to who can access the buildings.”**¹²

- Carlene Motto, executive vice president of sales



Accushield®

If you are interested in how Accushield can replace time-consuming, labor-intensive and imprecise pen-and-paper monitoring in your care facility, [contact us today](#).

Resources

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