

Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

Date: November 20th, 2020
To: APD Adult Foster Home Providers
From: Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit
Topic: **Provider Call Q&A**

Dear Providers – the following questions and answers are from our licensee conference call that took place on October 20, 2020. Please mark your calendars for our next call on December 15, 2020. More details will be announced as the date draws nearer.

VISITATION

Does Clackamas county have anything in place yet for indoor visitation?

- No counties have indoor visitation allowances for Aging and People with Disabilities adult foster homes just yet though guidance will be released as we are able to safely do so.

Does Coos County have indoor visitation for special cases?

- There is no allowance for indoor visitation currently with the exception of compassionate care visits. Please refer to the following provider alert for the guidelines specific to compassionate care visitation: [Compassionate Care Visitation Allowance](#).

For a licensee that has their own separate entry and no contact or no intent to walk in the residents' area, can they have their own visitors and not do assessment for COVID?

- This is not advised at this time though guidance on indoor visitation will be released very soon. Please remember that the screening serves a vital purpose, part of which is aiding in contact tracing should the need present itself. Without this vital tool public health does not have the tools they need to find others that might have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19. Additionally, though the visit may take on the licensee's portion of the AFH there is still the potential for exposure to residents.
-

Will visits need to be monitored still?

- When outdoor visits or compassionate care visits take place there is no need to hover over the visit. We simply ask that you have an awareness of the events surrounding the visit and ensure people do not begin wandering or remove their face masks. These guidelines are in place as part of our effort to allow for visitation while also promoting safe infection control practices.

COVID-19

Can we address the risk of going to the ER and COVID exposure? We have had family members refusing to send their loved ones to the ER but due to the on-call provider wanting to send them in?

- The risk of COVID exposure in the emergency room is minimal as the physicians and nurses providing care are well versed in infection control practices and procedures. If a resident is needing to receive medical care or emergency services, it is important they receive that care though the resident or their guardian (if one is appointed) do have the right to refuse medical services. If care is refused, please ensure you document all conversations in the resident's progress noted.

We should not forget that there are a lot of asymptomatic individuals walking around. How do we figure out who is and who is not as per current protocols?

- This is not something we are able to assess as people can have COVID-19 yet not have any symptoms. In these cases, the best defense is to wear a mask and practice infection control procedures including regular handwashing. It is also recommended that you use alcohol-based hand rub when handwashing is not an option.

Is there a place care homes can buy Covid-19 tests?

- There are retail tests available, but this is not an advisable solution for residents since their physician would need to order a test for them.

Can we get an update on the COVID-19 guidance for parents with kids who have gone back or will be going back to the classroom, and who will be coming back to the home daily?

- This provider alert was issued on October 23, 2020 and can be found here: [School-age Children Living in Adult Foster Homes](#).

Are we still required to be logging every single entry and exit time for caregivers, household members, etc.?

- Yes, these visitor sheets are an essential part of contact training should there be a positive COVID case in your AFH.

How long do we have to keep the logs for screening?

- Though we understand it may feel like a cumbersome amount of paperwork we ask at this time that they not be disposed of. Living through a pandemic is new to all of us and it is difficult to anticipate what might be useful or needed in the future.

Can we please update that COVID screening form? My understanding per CDC is that ANY international travel, an individual must quarantine for 14 days?

- Yes, we are working on an update to this form.

How can we balance the resident's rights of resident coming and going without caregivers knowing where they have been and the safety of the rest of the residents?

- Residents have the same right to access their community as any of us do and though we recognize you can't possibly account for their every interaction we do ask that you do what you can to keep them informed of safe practices when they are in the community and screen them up on their return.

Do we need a negative COVID test within 24, 48 or 72 hours prior to returning back to the ACH?

- If a resident has been in the hospital, they will likely be screened for COVID-19 during their stay. If the test from their stay was negative, they can return home and if the test was positive it is important you communicate that result to your licensor so the appropriate admission decisions can be made.

For all new admissions, should we ask for a negative COVID test? And what time frame 24hrs, 48hrs, 72hrs?

- A negative COVID-19 test is not required for new admissions though you will want to monitor for potential symptoms and encourage isolation for the first 14-days after move-in. It is important you discuss this need before admission, so the resident has an understanding of the move-in procedures before deciding to move-in.

CARE QUESTIONS

Does anyone have cameras in the common areas? Does this violate policy to have them in the home, not their rooms?

- Currently rule is silent on the use of cameras, but this will be changing. There was a workgroup that was assembled in late 2019 to discuss changes to the video monitoring rules so they are more in line with the Home and Community Based Services requirements. The COVID-19 pandemic has stalled our ability to make these rule updates, but they will be moved forward, likely in 2021.

Is Multnomah County part of that regarding camera?

- Please consult the Multnomah County Administrative Rules (MCAR) for specific guidance on cameras and video monitoring.

I have a resident that is requesting to lock her room at night. Is this OK or is this a fire safety issue? We do have a master key to all rooms as required.

- This is acceptable provided the resident has the ability to open their door without issues.

LICENSING

Any estimate on how backed up licensing renewal visits currently are?

- We do not have an estimation at this time, but we are doing what we can to be creative with licensing renewal processes so there are fewer delays.