NF-20-149 -Provider Alert

Date:    November 15, 2020

To:      All Nursing Facilities
          All Assisted Living Facilities
          All Residential Care Facilities
          All Adult Foster Homes

From:    Jack Honey, Administrator
          Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit,
          Office of Aging and People with Disabilities

RE:      Indoor visitation prohibited for long-term care statewide, effective
          November 18, 2020.

All indoor visitation is prohibited for long-term care facilities statewide, effective
Nov. 18, 2020, in accordance with Governor Kate Brown’s announcement of a Two-
Week Freeze measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon. The
prohibition will remain in place until the Oregon Department of Human Services
determines conditions are in place to reinstate the policy.

The indoor visitation policy change does not affect compassionate care visitation or
the limited outdoor visitation policy. However, for limited outdoor visitation the
Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) requires that facilities follow the
Governor’s order limiting visits to no more than a total of six people at a time and, in
addition, visits should not include people from more than two different households.

COVID-19 spreads quickly in congregate living settings and can have life-
threatening consequences for residents. Given that, visitation guidance must be
continually updated to reflect community infection-rate trends.
Oregon is seeing a rise in outbreaks in facilities in many communities. It is imperative that all facilities follow infection control prevention requirements and are prepared in the event that there is COVID-19 exposure among their residents or staff. Being prepared includes:

- Exercising all infection control precautions, including appropriate use of personal protective equipment, maintaining at least 6 feet distance between individuals whenever possible and practicing routine hand hygiene.
- Establishing back-up staffing agreements with staffing agencies and other licensed facilities in the event employees choose not to work, or are unable to because they are ill.
- Forming relationships and cooperative agreements with other nearby facilities to share staff and other resources in the event of an outbreak.

Questions about this update should be directed to a facility’s specific licensing team: for assisted living and residential care facilities, CBC.team@dhsoha.state.or.us; for nursing facilities, NF.licensing@dhsoha.state.or.us; for APD adult foster homes, APD.AFHTeam@dhsoha.state.or.us.