



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Safety, Oversight and Quality

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REF: NF-20-98 Provider Alert

Date: July 13, 2020

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

FROM: Jack Honey, Administrator
DHS Safety Oversight and Quality Unit

Re: Limited Outdoor Visitation

Background: While infection prevention and outbreak mitigation efforts remain critically important in long-term care settings, where residents are more vulnerable to virus exposure, DHS acknowledges that it is equally important to consider the quality of life and dignity of individuals living in long-term care settings, as well as the important role of family relationships to overall health. Based on recent guidance from CMS, SOQ has been evaluating how to responsibly ease some visitation restrictions while COVID-19 remains and is also growing in communities across the state. This guidance is based on currently available best-practice recommendations and evidence, and may be updated as additional information becomes available.

Purpose: This guidance allows for the possibility of limited, structured outdoor visitation utilizing best practices for physical distancing. This is a precursor to a forthcoming long-term care reopening plan which will be based on guidance from CMS and Governor Brown. Future guidance will address issues such as communal dining and activities. This limited outdoor visitation policy is intended to offer specific guidelines under which structured outdoor visitation can be accommodated.

On June 23, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released FAQs that further addressed visitors at facilities for licensed settings in counties that are beginning to open.

See [CMS Frequently Asked Questions on Visitation-June 23, 2020](#).

For the continued safety of LTC populations, most indoor visitation restrictions in long-term care settings are not expected to relax until phase three, especially as cases continue to rise in Oregon. However, in some circumstances, facilities may allow residents and loved ones outside visitation on physical property with strict physical distancing and infection control protocols in place. Any facility under an Executive Order from SOQ due to the presence of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 shall not allow visitation to take place until the order has been withdrawn.

Residents are allowed to physically leave and return to their facility at any time, as has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic. [The DHS guidance issued on June 3, 2020](#) should be followed for residents who leave and return. This guidance is specific to outdoor visits on facility property.

The following recommendations are intended to offer guidance as you facilitate outside visitation with an aim to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

- All visitors must be screened for symptoms;
 - Any visitors with symptoms of COVID-19 infection (subjective or objective fever equal to or greater than 100.4 F or as further restricted by facility policy, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea) will not be permitted to visit with a resident.
- All visitors must practice hand hygiene (including alcohol-based hand rub) prior to their visit with the resident;
- Both the visitor and the residents must wear a mask or cloth face covering for the duration of the visit;
 - Residents may have exceptions due to underlying medical conditions.
- A visitor log with contact information, for the purpose of contact tracing should the need arise, must be maintained by facility staff;
- Utilize appointment times in an effort to minimize the flow of foot traffic and allow for greater control over the number of visitors at any given

time. The number of visitors and residents allowable should be determined according to the available outdoor area;

- There should be visual reminders of required safety precautions and both the resident and the visitors should be reminded of best practices;
 - An inability to honor these requirements could negatively impact the ability to schedule future visits for the non-compliant guest.
- Limit the number of visitors that may visit a resident at any given time (two per resident at once);
 - Minor children and visitors must be in the control of adults who bring them and must also comply with physical distancing requirements.
- Create safe spaces by placing chairs at least 6 feet apart, marking the ground with tape, using a see-through separation wall, or by stationing physically distant tables in an outdoor seating area;
- The designated visiting area must be accessible without requiring the visitors to enter the facility;
- When needed, resident transfer to and from the visitation area must be provided by facility staff, not resident visitors;
- A facility staff member familiar with the required protocols shall monitor visits to assure risk prevention procedures are being followed during visits;
- Facility will ensure all visiting stations are cleaned and disinfected between visitor sessions;
- Food is not permitted during the visits. Visitors may bring their own water which cannot be shared with the resident.
- If a resident is being observed due to presence of COVID-19 symptoms the visit should be delayed until a later date. This does not mean the resident is not able to leave the facility should they choose to do so;
- If any visitor has been actively recovering from confirmed or suspected COVID-19, they will be not be allowed to visit until:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and,**
 - At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.
- If a resident has been actively recovering from COVID-19, visits can be allowed once the resident has met CDC criteria for recovery. The specific criteria can be found here: [Discontinuation of Transmission Based Protocol](#);

- A building that is currently under Executive Order due to confirmed COVID-19 or pending test results **shall not** allow visitation.

Advance notice communicating the visitation policy and protocols shall be provided to residents, resident families, and staff including the date visitation appointments can begin, the criteria that must be met for outside visitation and circumstances when visitation will be discounted.

At least 24 hours before commencing outdoor visitation, the facility must submit via email to SOQ copy of the visitation plan that indicates the facility has a location designated for outdoor visitation, sufficient staff, a mechanism for appointments and sufficient PPE to permit visitation, and can meet all other required criteria outlined above.

Once you have drafted your plan for outdoor visitation please submit it to the appropriate teams as follows:

- Adult Foster Home licensees: contact your local licensor or email APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us
- Residential Care and Assisted Living Facilities: CBC.Team@dhsosha.state.or.us
- Nursing Facilities: NFLicensing@dhsosha.state.or.us

General questions can be sent to: SOQ.LTCInfo@dhsosha.state.or.us.