

**Limitations on Long-Term Care Visitation:
(Effective Nov 4, 2020 per EOHHS)**

Long-term care facilities may allow visits with residents to occur, provided that the social distancing and protection requirements described in detail below are followed. As much as possible, long-term care facilities should continue to use alternative electronic methods for virtual communication between residents and visitors,

In-Person Visitation:

A long-term care facility may allow in-person visitation in a designated visitation space, provided that the long-term care facility implements all of the following safety, care, and infection control measures and policies:

- **A resident who is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 cannot participate in a visitation.** A resident may be visited if: the resident has recovered from COVID-19; or the resident is currently quarantined after a recent hospital stay and is not suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, or the resident is not quarantined and has never tested positive for COVID-19.
- The long-term care facility is not under a contingency staffing plan.
- **A visitor must remain at least six feet from the resident and attending staff member(s) for the majority of the visit.**
- **Brief physical contact may be allowed if desired by both the resident and visitor. In order to reduce risk of transmission, individuals must:**
 - **Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol before and after contact;**
 - **Hug with faces in opposite directions; and**
 - **Limit the duration of close physical contact and avoid close face-to-face contact even when face masks are used.**
- **Staff, residents and visitors must wear a face mask for the duration of the visit.**
- The long-term care facility must implement a schedule for frequent cleaning and disinfection of the designated visitation space, including cleaning high-touch surfaces using an appropriate EPA-registered disinfectant.

Any individual who enters the long-term care facility and develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, myalgia, chills, or new onset loss of smell or taste within two days after exiting the long-term care facility or designated outdoor space must immediately notify the long-term care facility of the date they were in the facility, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations within the facility they visited. Long-term care facilities should immediately screen the individuals who had contact with the visitor for the level of exposure and follow up with the facility's medical director or resident's care provider.

A long-term care facility may limit:

- The length of any visit, however, residents must be offered the opportunity to visit for no fewer than 45 minutes;
- The days on which visits will be permitted, provided that visits are offered on no fewer than five days of the week and one of the days must be on a weekend day;
- The hours during a day when visits will be permitted, provided that at least one day per week visits are offered outside of standard business hours;
- The number of times during a day or week a resident may be visited; and
- The number of visits occurring at the facility on a given day and may require visits to be scheduled in advance.

Designated Outdoor Visitation Space:

In addition to the in-person visitation conditions described above, the long-term care facility must:

- Ensure visits with a resident occur in a designated outdoor space; outdoor visits will be dependent on permissible weather conditions, availability of outdoor space, and the health and well-being of the resident.
- A long-term care facility staff member trained in such patient safety and infection control measures must remain immediately available to the resident at all times during the visit.

Designated Indoor Visitation Space:

In addition to the in-person visitation conditions described above, the long-term care facility must:

- Identify a designated space for visitation that is as close to the entrance as possible where visits can be socially distanced from other residents and minimize visitor impact in the facility.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly, have been serviced in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Avoid visitation in resident rooms.
- A long-term care facility staff member trained in such patient safety and infection control measures must perform frequent safety checks with the resident during the visit.
- **The unit, floor or care area where the resident lives must not have any confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in residents or staff in the past 14 days; however, notwithstanding this condition, if a facility determines that a confirmed or suspected case within the facility presents a risk for all units, the facility in its discretion may suspend indoor visitation.**

Please note that if community transmission rates become high, DPH may amend the above visitation conditions.

Compassionate Care Visitation:

Facilities must accommodate compassionate care visits for residents. Compassionate care visits include end-of-life care as well as certain other situations.

Decisions about compassionate care visits should be made on a case-by-case basis, based on resident care needs. Long-term facilities should work with residents, families, caregivers, resident representatives, and health care personnel to identify the need for compassionate care visits.

For compassionate care situations long-term care facilities must limit visitors in the facility to a specific room: either the resident's room, if the resident has a private room, or another location designated by the facility. Long-term care facilities must require visitors to perform hand hygiene and give visitors a face mask if they do not have one. **Decisions about visitation during a compassionate care situation should be made on a case-by-case basis, which should include careful screening of the visitor** (including clergy, bereavement counselors, etc.) for any symptoms of COVID-19 and temperature checks. Individuals with symptoms of a respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, myalgia, chills or new onset of loss of taste or smell) should not be permitted to enter the long-term care facility at any time.