

Responsible RestartOhio



Nursing Homes

Mandatory

Facility Guidance

- Homes may permit residents to have visitors in outdoor settings, so long as all safety standards are met.
- Homes shall be in substantial compliance with testing requirements for all staff as established by the May 27, 2020 Director's Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Nursing Homes.
- Homes should consider: case status in surrounding community; case status in the facility; staffing levels; access to adequate testing for residents and staff; personal protective equipment supplies; local hospital capacity; and implications for resident physical and mental well-being when determining when to allow facility and personal visitation decisions.
- Homes should develop visitation practices that include, at a minimum, limiting visits, creating a screening process for visitors, maintaining a visitors log.
- Homes should educate residents on the risks of the spread of COVID-19 when interacting with visitors, and the appropriate/applicable safety precautions.
- Each Home can determine how to best implement outdoor visitations for their residents in a way that works best for them.

Outdoor Visitors

- Require scheduling of all on-site visits with the home. Provide visitors a time and length for the visit.
- Screen visitors for COVID-19 symptoms, including symptoms assessment and questions about exposure to COVID-19.
- Maintain a log of visitors that includes name and contact information and retain information for at least six months.
 - Have adequate staff on site to screen visitors.
 - Policies and logs shall be made available upon request to residents, visitors, the Department of Health, Department of Aging, Department of Developmental Disabilities, and any representative of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.
- During visits, require visitors to wear a mask and require residents, where possible, to also wear a mask.
- Due to guidance discouraging use of masks on children under the age of 2, all visitors shall be over the age of 2.
- Require that all visitors be at an age of maturity to facilitate social distancing and not be a distraction to other residents, visitors, or staff.
- No more than three visitors shall be permitted per resident per visit.
- Visits shall not exceed one hour in length.
- If more than one resident has a visitor, or a resident has multiple visitors, provide enough outdoor space to permit all visitors and residents to maintain appropriate distance from each other.
- Encourage residents and visitors to have a contact-free visit. If contact does occur, the resident should wash hands thoroughly upon returning indoors and, if possible, change clothes upon returning indoors. Items such as wheelchairs or other touched items should be cleaned and disinfected.
- Have hand sanitizer available to visitors and residents for use before, after, and during the visit.
- Make contingency plans to address adverse weather and accommodations to provide shade for residents with sun-sensitivity.

End of Life Care

- No visitors of residents shall be admitted inside any home, except for end of life situations, defined as substantial change of condition indicating end of life is approaching.
- Homes shall notify these visitors several days and up to one week in advance and shall not wait until active dying.
- This applies to all facility types, including but not limited to, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

Mandatory

Communal Activities and Other Services

- To the extent possible and so long as all safety protocols and safe distancing is adhered to, facilities are encouraged to continue offering communal activities for residents who have fully recovered from COVID-19, and for those not in isolation for observation, or suspected or confirmed COVID-19 status.
- Individuals may eat in the same room with social distancing (limited number of people at tables and spaced by at least 6 feet).
- Group activities may be facilitated with social distancing among individuals, appropriate hand hygiene, and use of cloth face coverings or facemasks.
- Hair salons inside homes are permitted to reopen for full service so long as all workplace safety standards are met, and state COVID-19 protocols and sector-specific COVID-19 protocols are followed.

Confirmed Cases

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
- Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposure.

**Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell. (CDC expanded list of symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.)*

The State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, an office within the Ohio Department of Aging, is a good resource for families and others with loved ones in assisted living facilities during this time. The Ombudsman can be reached at 1-800-282-1206.

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