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LTC – Assisted Housing Visitation and Updated Guidelines 06.10.2020

This document provides guidelines for outdoor visitation in nursing homes and assisted housing (*includes assisted living, residential care, and PNMI facilities*). These guidelines are subject to change based on the evolving COVID-19 situation.

The document includes:

1. Outdoor Visitation guidelines
2. Visitor monitoring post visitation
3. Outside food and supplies
4. Reminders

Outdoor Visitation:

Facilities may allow in-person visitation in a designated outdoor visitation space, provided the facility implements all of the following safety, care, and infection prevention and control measures. There must be no new COVID-19 cases that originated within the facility, including those involving residents or staff, within the last 14 days. Note: new COVID-19 admissions to a facility would not constitute a facility-onset COVID-19 case.

Measures:

- Visits Specifics:
 - Must take place in a designated outdoor space and are dependent upon permissible weather conditions, availability of outdoor space, and sufficient staffing at the facility to meet resident care needs, and the health and well-being of the resident.
 - Visitations must be scheduled in advance for all designated outdoor spaces
 - Facilities may limit the length of any visit, the days on which visits will be permitted, the hours during a day when visits will be permitted, and the number of times during a day or week a resident may be visited.
 - No meals/snacks are permitted during the visit as this would require the removal of the face mask/face covering.
 - Facilities will post signage or provide a handout for visitors on signs and symptoms associated with COVID-19.
 - Prior to the visit the facility will provide the visitor instructions and requirements for visitation and where to go upon arrival.
 - **6 feet of physical distance must be maintained during the visit.**
- Residents:
 - A resident who is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 cannot be visited.
 - A resident who has recovered from COVID-19 may be visited.
 - Escort residents to and from the designated outdoor visitation space. The resident cannot be transported through any space designated as COVID-19 care space or a space where residents suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 are present.
 - Residents must wear a cloth face covering. Visitors must wear a face covering or mask for the duration of the visit

LTC – ALF Visitation and Updated Guidelines 06.10.2020

- Visitors:
 - Visitors must be limited to no more than two individuals per visit
 - The facility must screen the visitor for fever or respiratory symptoms. Any individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 infection¹ will not be permitted to visit.
 - Hand hygiene will be performed before and after the visit.
 - All visitors must remain at least 6 feet from the resident and any attending staff member(s) at all times during the visit.
 - Children must be supervised at all times, maintain social distancing, and wear a face covering when age appropriate.
- Staff:
 - A staff member(s) trained in patient safety and infection prevention and control measures must be present to monitor the outdoor designated space(s).
 - Monitoring of visitation is required. Facility should assess the number of staff necessary to ensure appropriate masking and social distancing are followed.
 - Staff must wear a surgical face mask.

Visitor Monitoring Post Visitation: Any visitor who develops signs and symptoms¹ of COVID-19 within 2 days after visiting must immediately notify the facility of the date they visited, and the resident they visited. Facilities should immediately investigate the level of exposure residents or staff had to the visitor and the source control (face covering) that was used. Facilities will follow up with their medical director, resident's care provider, or appropriate designee for any actions required.

Outside Food and Supplies (*take-out, flowers, groceries, resident supplies, etc.*): Current data suggest that COVID-19 is primarily spread by person-to-person transmission and risk from objects is low. Therefore, outside food and supplies will be permitted as long as hand hygiene is performed after handling the packaging.

Reminders

- **Screening:** all individuals should be screened for signs/symptoms¹, including taking a temperature (*which must be below 100.0°F*) prior to entry to the facility or visitation.
- **Masking:**
 - Healthcare personnel should wear a facemask at all times while they are in the facility
 - Residents should wear a cloth face covering or facemask (if tolerated) whenever they leave their room. Cloth face covering should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. A face shield can be worn in place of a cloth face covering when a resident is unable to wear one.
 - Visitors, when permitted for visitation (as listed above) must wear a cloth face covering at all times during permitted visitation. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of 2.
- **Healthcare Personnel Exposure:** CDC guidelines for the management of health care personnel who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should be followed <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>.
- **Dining and Group Activities:** internal communal dining and group activities should continue to be suspended.

Footnotes:

¹**Signs & Symptoms of COVID-19:** fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, myalgias, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html>