



January 13, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Residential Care Facilities
Nursing Homes

FROM: DHEC Healthcare Quality

SUBJECT: Entry of Healthcare Workers and Other Providers of Services at Long-Term Care Facilities

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) reminds long-term care facilities that healthcare workers and other providers of services who are not employees of the facility but provide direct care to residents must be allowed access into the facility, except in the limited circumstances described below. Long-term care facilities should continue to adhere to the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' \(CMS\) guidance](#) regarding the appropriate screening of individuals providing these services. In adherence with CMS guidance, healthcare workers and other providers of services that provide direct care to residents must be allowed access into the facility and include, but are not limited to, the following individuals:

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel**
- **Hospice workers**
- **Dialysis technicians**
- **Laboratory technicians**
- **Radiology technicians**
- **Social workers**
- **Clergy**
- **Other healthcare workers who are not employees but provide direct care to residents, e.g., private duty workers**

These healthcare workers and providers of services that provide direct care to residents must be permitted to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to an exposure to COVID-19 or show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after being screened. Please note that EMS personnel do not need to be screened so they can attend to an emergency without delay.

Healthcare workers and other providers of services that provide direct care to residents must also continue to comply with the [COVID-19 testing requirements](#) and the facility's policies and procedures.

Facilities can contact acc-healthreg@dhec.sc.gov with any questions.