

Clarification on the Required In-Person Visitation at Nursing Homes and Community Residential Care Facilities

- **All nursing homes and community residential care facilities are required to allow in-person visitation** in accordance with DHEC's [Guidelines for Outdoor and Indoor Visitation](#), unless any of the below specific resident safety exceptions apply.
- **Family members of a resident at a facility must be allowed access to that resident** in accordance with the South Carolina Bill of Rights for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities and DHEC's [Guidelines for Outdoor and Indoor Visitation](#), unless any of the below specific resident safety exceptions apply.

Outdoor Visitation Required

- Nursing homes and community residential care facilities are required to allow outdoor visitation unless any of the following resident safety exceptions apply:

Only Exceptions to Required Outdoor Visitation:

- There have been one or more COVID-19 cases among staff and/or residents identified in the facility within the last 14 days.
- Weather conditions do not allow for safe outdoor visitation, including inclement weather or excessively hot or cold temperature.
- One or more core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention are not being maintained by the facility:
 - Screening of all people who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and denial of entry to those who screen positive for signs or symptoms
 - Frequent hand hygiene
 - Face coverings or masks that cover both the mouth and nose
 - Social distancing of at least six feet
 - Signage throughout the facility and visitor education materials on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control methods, and other facility policies (e.g., face coverings/masks, specified entries/exits/pathways, hand hygiene, etc.)

- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and of visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) use by staff
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., creating separate areas specifically dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing performed in accordance with CMS

Indoor Visitation Required

- Nursing homes and community residential care facilities are required to allow indoor visitation unless any of the following resident safety exceptions apply:

Only Exceptions to Required Indoor Visitation:

- There have been one or more COVID-19 cases among staff and/or residents identified in the facility within the last 14 days.
- The positivity rate for the county in which the facility is located in is greater than 10%.
- One or more core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention are not being maintained by the facility:
 - Screening of all people who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and denial of entry to those who screen positive for signs or symptoms
 - Frequent hand hygiene
 - Face coverings or masks that cover both the mouth and nose
 - Social distancing of at least six feet
 - Signage throughout the facility and visitor education materials on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control methods, and other facility policies (e.g., face coverings/masks, specified entries/exits/pathways, hand hygiene, etc.)
 - Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces often and of visitation areas after each visit
 - Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) use by staff
 - Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., creating separate areas specifically dedicated to COVID-19 care)
 - Resident and staff testing performed in accordance with CMS
- **Note:** If a facility is located in a county with a positivity rate greater than 10%, the facility is still required to allow outdoor visitation, unless otherwise prevented by a resident safety exception to outdoor visitation.

See the Below Table for All Exceptions to Required Outdoor and Indoor Visitation.

Exhaustive List of Exceptions to Required Visitation		Required Outdoor Visitation Exception	Required Indoor Visitation Exception
One or more COVID-19 cases among staff and/or residents identified in the facility within the last 14 days.		✓	✓
Weather conditions do not allow for safe outdoor visitation, including inclement weather or excessively hot or cold temperature.		✓	
The positivity rate for the county in which the facility is located in is greater than 10%.			✓
One or more of these core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention are not being maintained by the facility	Screening of all people who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and denial of entry to those who screen positive for signs or symptoms	✓	✓
	Frequent hand hygiene	✓	✓
	Face coverings or masks that cover both the mouth and nose	✓	✓
	Social distancing of at least six feet	✓	✓
	Signage throughout the facility and visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control methods, and other facility policies (e.g., face coverings/masks, specified entries/exits/pathways, hand hygiene, etc.)	✓	✓
	Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces often and of visitation areas after each visit	✓	✓
	Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) use by staff	✓	✓
	Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., creating separate areas specifically dedicated to COVID-19 care)	✓	✓
	Resident and staff testing performed in accordance with CMS	✓	✓