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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exhaustive List of Exceptions to Required Visitation</th>
<th>Required Outdoor Visitation Exception</th>
<th>Required Indoor Visitation Exception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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