



November 13, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Residential Care Facilities
Nursing Homes

FROM: DHEC Healthcare Quality

SUBJECT: Visitation Allowance at Long-Term Care Facilities

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) reminds community residential care facilities and nursing homes that they cannot fully restrict in-person visitation at a facility unless a reasonable clinical or safety cause is present. Visitation restrictions placed at a facility in response to its county's COVID-19 positivity rate being greater than 10% is only applicable to restricting indoor visitation and not outdoor visitation. Facilities are expected to allow for some form of visitation at a facility, whether it be indoor or outdoor, for residents to participate in.

Facilities who fail to comply with visitation requirements and do not have a reasonable cause in doing so are in violation of residents' rights and can be subject to a civil penalty.

Community residential care facilities and nursing homes are required to adhere to the [Guidelines for Outdoor and Indoor Visitation](#). Visitation requirements and guidance for long-term care facilities are available at scdhec.gov/visitation.

Facilities can contact acc-healthreg@dhec.sc.gov with any questions at all regarding visitation.