



Summary of Nursing Facility Visitation Rules 3-22-2021

Tips for Visitation Success:

Contact your facility to schedule any type of visit. Contact your facility prior to visiting to make sure the facility is aware of the new visitation rules for essential caregiver, outdoor, indoor, and end-of-life visitation.

If you think the facility is not following the new visitation rules, we encourage you to address that at the time of scheduling or after a visit, rather than during the visit. Call your ombudsman if you need help at 1-800-252-2412.

Nursing Facility Rule Changes:

Essential Caregivers Visitation

- COVID-19 testing is no longer required.
- Visits are allowed for all residents including COVID-19 positive.
- Staff no longer escort to and from the visitation area or the resident's room.
- Time frames for visiting are no longer specified.

End-of-Life Visitation

- The definition of end-of-life is expanded to include residents who are near the end of life, receiving hospice services, or whose prognosis does not indicate recovery.
- A facility should not wait until death is imminent to allow visits.

Outdoor Visitation

- All nursing facilities must allow outdoor visitation for COVID-19 negative residents.
- A fully-vaccinated resident may choose to have close or personal contact with their visitor.

Indoor Visitation

- A nursing facility with staff assigned to only one cohort area must allow indoor visitation with the following conditions:
 - A facility in a county with *less than* 10% positivity rate must allow indoor visitation for COVID-19 negative residents.
 - A facility in a county with more than 10% positivity rate **and** *more than* 70% of residents are vaccinated must allow indoor visitation for COVID-19 negative residents.
 - A facility in a county with more than 10% positivity rate **and** *less than* 70% of residents are vaccinated must allow indoor visitation for COVID-19 negative residents *who are fully vaccinated*.
- A fully-vaccinated resident may choose to have close or personal contact with their visitor.

Nursing Facility Rules Remaining the Same:

- All visits must be scheduled.
- Physical contact with the resident is allowed for essential caregiver and end-of-life visits.

Visitors must:

- be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and not visit if the visitor has an active COVID-19 infection or symptoms;
- remain physically distanced from staff and other residents;
- wear a minimum of facemask during the visit; and
- wear more PPE in accordance with CDC recommendations, such as a gown, goggles or face shield, and gloves, if the resident is COVID-19 unknown or positive.