

FAQs for Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities

July 22, 2020

Today's Overview



NH Updates and Resources



Submitted Questions



Audience Q&A via chat

Updated NH Resources

- ▶ Visitation Guidance (7/21 Update)
 - Interpreting and applying updated Travel Guidance
 - Statement reminding that there should not be any eating during visitation
- ▶ CDC Return to Work Criteria
 - “10/3 Rule” → “10/1 Rule” and “20/1 Rule”

Review from Last Week: Travel Guidance

- ▶ Anyone traveling should continue to:
 - Avoid large gatherings and public areas
 - Keep a distance of at least 6 feet from others
 - Wear a cloth face covering when in public areas
 - Frequently sanitize their hands
- ▶ NH residents or out-of-state visitors traveling to/from areas outside of New England (VT, ME, MA, CT, RI) need to self-quarantine for the first 14 days of any intended stay in NH after travel
 - 14 days starts from the last day of their travel outside New England
 - This recommendation is irrespective of the mode of transportation for travel (public vs. private transportation)



Modifying Screening Questions for Visitation

- ▶ “Do you have any symptoms of COVID-19?”
 - Fever (feeling feverish or temp ≥ 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit);
 - Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath;
 - Whole body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue;
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, and
 - Changes in a person’s sense of taste or smell
- ▶ Have you had close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the prior 14 days? *(Note: healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no”)*
- ▶ Have you traveled in the prior 14 days outside of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, or Rhode Island?”

Note Again: Travel Guidance for LTCF Visitation

- ▶ If resident or visitors screen positive for any questions (signs/symptoms, exposure risk factors including travel), then the visitation may not occur
 - This means that visitors traveling from states outside of the 6 New England states cannot visit LTFs before their quarantine is complete
 - However, in *compassionate care situations* facilities should make decisions about allowing visitors from outside of the six New England states on a case by case basis

Considerations for “Case by Case”

- ▶ Ideally quarantine for 14 days before their visit, in accordance with state rules
 - One strategy when this is not possible might be to instruct them to have them attest to 14-d home state quarantine with travel to NH in their personal vehicle
- ▶ For compassionate visitation when coming from outside the 6NE states and unable to quarantine 14 days:
 - Visitors wear “PBE” (personal barrier equipment: gloves, gown, eye protection, and surgical mask)
 - Note that they should wear a surgical mask, NOT an N95
 - Resident should wear a surgical mask, if tolerated
 - Conduct visitation outside, if possible
 - If indoor, designate space close to front door so visitors do not walk through the facility
 - Visitors shouldn't use the bathroom in the facility
 - If they do, this requires doffing and donning again AND terminal cleaning of the bathroom

Return to Work Criteria

Symptom-based Strategy

HCP with mild-mod illness who are not severely immunocompromised

- ▶ At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
 - ▶ At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
 - ▶ Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved
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- ▶ HCP who were asymptomatic throughout their infection may return to work when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test

Symptom-based Strategy

HCP with severe illness or who are severely immunocompromised

- ▶ At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
 - ▶ At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
 - ▶ Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved
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- ▶ HCP who were asymptomatic throughout their infection may return to work when at least 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test

Return to Work Criteria for HCP on Quarantine

- ▶ HCP with an unprotected exposure to COVID-19 or on travel quarantine should be excluded from work for 14 days after last exposure
 - HCP can return to work after their 14 day quarantine has ended
 - **A negative PCR test result does NOT allow them to be removed from their 14-day quarantine**
 - An exposed individual can develop illness within this 14-day period, and testing before may be falsely negative
 - See “Mitigating Staff Shortages” below for allowing essential personnel to return to work sooner after an unprotected exposure
- ▶ HCP who are on quarantine because of household contact to a confirmed case should remain on their full 14 day quarantine

Submitted Questions

“Can residents eat during outdoor visitation?”

- ▶ No, because visitors and residents must keep their masks on

Questions About Quarantine After Travel

- ▶ “Are essential workers exempt from out of state travel guidance? It would create a staff shortage.”
 - From outside 6 New England states
 - “Not exempt” but allowed to work
- ▶ “Are essential healthcare staff exempt from the travel ban if done in a private vehicle?”
 - No longer any reference to private vehicle
- ▶ “Does crisis staff guidance apply to travel outside New England 6 for HCP?”
- ▶ “Is the in-state 14 day quarantine still up for discussion, if no public transit is used, a 14-day quarantine out of state is observed and a negative COVID test is produced prior to start?”

Chat Q&A?