

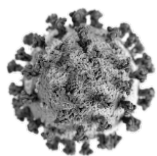
Frequently Asked Questions for Long Term Care Facilities

March 24, 2021

Today's Overview



Local Epidemiology



Resource Updates



Audience Q&A

Resource Updates

NH DHHS Guidance Updates

- [LTCF Visitation FAQs for Families and Residents](#) (March 22, 2021)

Updated Visitation FAQs

I'm vaccinated and my loved one is vaccinated. Do we have to mask and socially distance for a home visit?

- It depends
- If visiting at home, the safest approach is that families should still adhere to social distancing and mask wearing
- However, in your own household you may choose to follow CDC's allowances for [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#)
- Within a LTCF, continue wearing your mask and maintaining 6ft of distance as much as possible

Updated Visitation FAQs (cont.)

Do facilities require me to get a COVID test before I visit?

- No. Some facilities may ask visitors to be tested as an additional precaution, it is not required.

Where can visits occur?

- It depends. Facilities decide how and where visits occur. Outdoor visitation is the safest way to visit. Visitation may also take place in a designated area indoors, or if permitted by the facility, in the resident's room.

Should facilities require that visitors be vaccinated?

- No. Visitors should not be turned away if they have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. Even if visitors are vaccinated, they must maintain the same safety precautions as everyone else when inside the facility.

Operationalizing the Reopening Guidance for your Facility

How can facilities operationalize the Reopening Guidance?

- Facilities have to operationalize the guidance in accordance with their unique circumstances: CMS-license, resources, layout, vaccination status, etc.
- For facilities that do not have to follow the reopening guidance as strictly as CMS-guided nursing homes, it makes sense to tailor to your facility context
- Adapt policies based on resident needs, balanced with safety for the facility
- There is a stronger compulsion for CMS-facilities to comply than non-CMS such as ALFs or other residential care facilities

Can facilities allow home visits for vaccinated residents earlier?

- Use the [Visitation FAQs](#) to help guide you as you are trying to operationalize this guidance
- DHHS recommends waiting until community transmission is [low](#) before taking a loved one home for a visit
 - Residents who are vaccinated can take trips outside the facility as early as Phase 2
- There are residents for whom inability to travel home has created a life threatening stress
- Risk benefit may favor you educating family members how to do home visits as safely as possible, with or without quarantine on return at your discretion
- As [CDC does in their guidance](#), you may also make differential advice based on vaccine status of the household under consideration for home visit

Can ALFs allow tours earlier than Phase 2?

- Yes
- For non-CMS facilities, DHHS recommends waiting until **Phases 2 & 3** to allow tours again
- These are guidelines to meet the majority experience (not laws or rules)
- It seems reasonable to balance fiscal viability with an exception to this guideline with regards to tours
- Each facility has a unique context, different vaccination rates, and different risk/benefit analysis

When weighing risks vs. benefits of more permissive policies, remember:

- The vaccine is not 100% protective
- Screen out symptomatic people
- Continue masking
 - Even vaccinated people should continue wearing masks when visiting facilities

Other Submitted Questions

Should facilities keep doing pulse ox in daily screening?

- From [CDC](#): actively monitor all residents upon admission
 - At least daily for fever ($T \geq 100.0^\circ\text{F}$) and [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#)
 - Ideally, include an assessment of oxygen saturation via pulse oximetry
- Can create your facility policy based on vaccination percentages, individual's vaccination status, individual's ability to report symptoms, and outbreak status

