

Outdoor Visitation Guidance for Long-term Care Facilities

INCLUDES NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING, AND OTHER CONGREGATE SETTINGS

The Minnesota Department of Health recognizes how the effects of isolation can have serious impacts on the health and well-being of residents in LTC facilities. At this time, we believe the risk of COVID-19 transmission in LTC facilities and the need for family, partner or close friend interaction can be balanced under certain conditions. This document contains recommendations that we strongly encourage LTC facilities to follow and implement.

Resident criteria

- Current COVID-19 positive residents, residents with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period are not eligible for outside visits.
- Residents who have had COVID-19 must no longer require transmission-based precautions as outlined by the CDC and MDH guidelines.
- Residents must wear a mask, or other face covering, as tolerated.

Visitor criteria

- Visitors must wear a mask, or other face covering, during the entire visit unless medically contraindicated.
- Visitors must use alcohol-based hand rub upon entering and exiting the visitation area.
- Visitors must be actively screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and must attest to COVID-19 status if known. This should be done at a designated location outside the building.
- Visitors should not walk through the facility to get to the outdoor visitation area.
- Visitors must sign in and provide contact information.
- Due to the risk of exposure, holding hands, hugging, kissing, or other physical contact is not allowed during family visits.
- Visitors under age 12 years must be in the control of adults who bring them and must also comply with social distancing requirements.
- Pets must be under the control of the visitor bringing them in.
- All visitors must maintain 6 feet social distance.
- Visitors must stay in designated visitation locations.

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Weather: Visits should occur only on days when there are no weather warnings that would put either the visitor or resident at risk. Which would include heat advisory as defined when the heat index is expected to reach 95 degrees Fahrenheit or greater.

Facilities that meet the criteria above retain the right to deny outdoor visitation to specific residents only if they believe:

1. Circumstances pose a risk of transmitting COVID-19 to the facility because the resident or visitor does not comply with infection control guidance, or
2. The resident or visitor is at risk of abuse/harm.

In addition, facilities will limit the number of visitors allowed at one time to allow for adequate social distancing.

Residents and their loved ones may contact providers with questions about outdoor visits. Facilities should ensure residents, and their loved ones, have access to the Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care at 651-431-2555 or 1-800-657-3591 to request advocacy services.

By signing this, I have reviewed and understand the MDH guidance and understand that non-compliance may result in an increased risk to the person I am visiting, other individuals who reside on the campus as well as staff.

Visitor Signature

Date _____

Visitor Printed Name

Resident Name

Room #



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Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.

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