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Holiday Visitation Guidance for Long-Term Care Facilities

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently – and just in time for the holidays – have updated visitation guidance to ensure long-term care facilities, residents, and their families can safely enjoy the upcoming holiday season. These recommendations are addressed to nursing homes but are applicable for assisted living facilities and other long-term care facilities as well.

Click [here](#) to view the updated CMS visitation recommendations. **Please note that CMS clearly states that visitation is now allowed for all residents at all times.**

The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) wants to be very clear, long-term care facilities should **NOT**:

- Require visits to be scheduled in advance.
- Limit time for visits.
- Limit visiting hours.
- Require visits to be supervised by staff or limit visits due to insufficient staff.
- Limit visits to public areas or spaces.

The core principles for COVID-19 Infection Prevention consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) should continue to be maintained.

Florida's long-term care residents and their loved ones will be looking forward to spending time together. The Agency encourages long-term care providers to plan accordingly for these upcoming holiday visits. It is important that you communicate your visitation expectations in relation to infection control protocols with residents

and their families to ensure the well-being of your residents and to keep everyone safe this holiday season and beyond.

Additionally, the upcoming holidays are a great opportunity to ensure that your staff and your residents have every opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, including a 3rd dose if desired. This is also the time to make preparations to provide your staff and residents the ability to receive the antibody treatments early to help prevent them from becoming ill enough to need a hospital level of care should COVID-19 impact your facility.

If your facility has yet to complete the Agency and Department of Health's survey to determine the vaccination and monoclonal antibody opportunities available for long-term care providers and identify any gaps that may exist, please do so as soon as possible. **Please click [here](#) to take the survey. If you previously took the survey but did not indicate whether or not you have the ability to have the monoclonal antibody treatment provided in your facility, please consider completing the survey again.**

The Agency is committed to helping Florida's long-term care facilities ensure residents and their families can safely enjoy the upcoming holidays. If you have any questions regarding visitation or securing assistance to provide the COVID-19 vaccine or monoclonal antibody treatments to your residents or staff, please email AHCAEOC@ahca.myflorida.com.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 48,000 health care facilities and 53 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov.

Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via:



Agency for Health Care Administration | 2727 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308 | <http://ahca.myflorida.com>