

UPDATED JULY 1, 2021

TYPES OF ALLOWED VISITATION AT LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

WHEN AND HOW MAY I VISIT MY LOVED ONE IN A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY?



INDOOR VISIT

Allowed except during the circumstances outlined below.

Fully vaccinated means it has been at least two weeks since receiving the final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



INDOOR VISIT

COMPASSIONATE CARE
Allowed under some situations even if the visitor or resident do not have the COVID-19 vaccine.

These visits are allowed only if the resident is experiencing a serious health or emotional crisis.



OUTDOOR VISIT

Allowed at all times even if the visitor or resident do not have the COVID-19 vaccine.

While outside the CDC encourages social distancing of six feet.



WINDOW VISIT

Allowed at all times even if the visitor or resident do not have the COVID-19 vaccine.

Visiting a resident through a closed window does not require a mask to be worn.



REMOTE VISIT

Allowed at all times even if the visitor or resident do not have the COVID-19 vaccine.

INDOOR VISITS WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. Throughout the building if there is a COVID-19 outbreak until an assessment of the situation and a complete round of testing is completed.
2. For an individual resident if they test positive for COVID-19.
3. For unvaccinated residents if the county positivity rate is greater than 10% and the resident vaccination rate in the facility is less than 70%.

Some Compassionate Care Visits are still allowed even if a facility has an active COVID-19 outbreak.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITS

WHAT IS A COMPASSIONATE CARE VISIT?

Compassionate care visits are intended to permit limited indoor visitation and necessary support to residents facing serious health or emotional crises. These visits are only permitted in “end-of-life” or “psychosocial need” circumstances.

WHAT ARE END-OF-LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES?

End-of-life circumstances are generally marked by a “sharp decline in health status,” as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). A health episode with a substantial probability of mortality should be considered to be an end-of-life circumstance.

WHAT ARE PSYCHOSOCIAL NEED SITUATIONS?

Psychosocial need situations are defined by signs of emotional distress. Examples may include expressions of grief, crying, social withdrawal, weight loss or dehydration, or reluctance to eat or drink. Residents clearly struggling emotionally should be allowed visitors by these criteria.

MAY I HUG OR TOUCH A RESIDENT DURING THESE VISITS?

In general, visitors may not initiate physical contact. Vaccinated visitors and residents may have opportunities for physical contact and are encouraged to discuss this with the provider. Under compassionate care circumstances, however, physical contact may be permitted *IF* the facility permits and is consulted on a safe procedure for making contact for a limited amount of time.

ARE COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITS SUPERVISED?

Compassionate care circumstances do not necessarily need to be supervised, although facilities may enact their own compassionate care policies to ensure that these visits are conducted safely and in accordance with infection control guidelines.

MAY I VISIT A RESIDENT IN QUARANTINE?

Residents suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, or those under required quarantine, may accept visitors under compassionate care circumstances. The facility must be consulted for infection control guidance before such a visit occurs.

HOW MANY VISITORS CAN PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THESE VISITS?

The capacity of a compassionate care visit should be determined by social distancing. The maximum allowable capacity of such a visit is the number of persons that can strictly maintain a six-foot radius from others. Facilities may establish their own limits as they see fit.

WHAT RULES MUST I FOLLOW WHEN VISITING?

All visitors must be screened and wash their hands prior to entry. Visitors must be masked at all times and wear other PPE as directed. Vaccinated visitors may have some instances when they are able to remove source control or have close physical contact with a loved one. Visitors are encouraged to discuss these opportunities with the provider.

WHERE MAY COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITS TAKE PLACE?

Compassionate care visits should generally take place in the designated visiting area of a facility. However, if the resident prefers or no such area is accessible, the visit may take place in the resident’s room, as long as all roommates allow and infection control is observed.

OTHER NOTES

- LTC facilities must accommodate visits for compassionate care reasons.
- Access to loved ones is important for resident wellbeing, especially under compassionate care circumstances.
- All visitors to LTC facilities must be screened and wash their hands prior to entry. Within the facility, visitors must wear PPE and maintain a six-foot distance from others at all times.
- Facilities may schedule visits to ensure that good infection control and social distancing can be maintained.
- Compassionate care visitors are afforded some flexibility compared to visitors under normal circumstances. Refer to the Q&A at left for more information.