



Recommendations on Long Term Care Facility Visitation

Florida Health Care Association Work Group on Sustainable COVID-19 Planning for Long Term Care Facilities in Florida

Presentation to Governor's Task Force to Explore the Safe and Limited Re-Opening of Long-Term Care Facilities

August 14, 2020



FHCA Work Group on Sustainable COVID-19 Planning for Long Term Care Facilities in Florida

Work Group Representatives

- **Activities Coordinator**
- **Board Certified Infection Control Specialist**
- **Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Administrator**
- **2 Licensed Nursing Home Administrators**
- **2 Nursing Home Owners/Operators**
- **Medical Doctor**
- **Medical Equipment Supplier**
- **Nurse Clinician**
- **Nursing Home Company Chief Financial Officer**
- **Social Worker**

Current Resident & Family Interaction

FHCA Findings (July 2020 Poll)

Overarching Concerns:

- Decline in residents' mental and physical well-being from lack of family interaction
 - Fear that opening centers will cause more COVID-19 exposure.
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- 100%: Conducting **virtual visits** (tablets/iPhones, Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, etc.)
 - 100%: **No visitations inside facility** (exceptions for hospice/end-of-life residents)
 - Nearly 90%: **Conducting window visits**
(Resident indoors - family members outside the center)
 - Minority: **Drive-by visitations**
(Family members "parade" past socially-distanced residents)
 - Small number of facilities: **Outside visitation**
(Plexiglass divider/Other physical barrier between resident and family member)



FHCA Recommended Requirements for LTC Facilities to Reopen to Visitors

Facility Standards

- **Prior to resuming visitation, facilities should ensure they have:**
 - Adequate staffing
 - Adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and essential cleaning and disinfecting supplies to meet resident care needs/precautionary measures
 - Adequate access to testing for COVID-19
 - Referral hospital(s) have bed capacity on wards and intensive care units
 - A COVID-19 containment and infection control strategy
- **Facilities tools for safe visitation:**
 - Allow the scheduling of visitors by appointment to maintain social distancing
 - Ability to limit length of visits, days and hours of when visits are permitted, number of times throughout the day/week when residents can be visited, and number of visitors allowed during a single visit
 - Require all visitors and residents to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and perform hand hygiene
 - Shall notify residents and their representatives of any change in visitation policy



FHCA Recommended Requirements for LTC Facilities to Reopen to Visitors *Visitation Area*

All facilities are permitted to conduct outside visitation for residents who are COVID Negative. In-facility visitation limited to:

- "compassionate care situations"
- Facilities that have had no new, facility onset COVID-19 cases for 28 days

Recommended Visitation:

- Preference 1: Outside area protected from weather elements, such as porches, patios and other covered areas, or tented.
- Preference 2: A room within the facility that is not accessible by other residents.
- Preference 3: Visits in a private resident room only occurring for bedbound residents or those who, for health reasons, cannot leave their room.

FHCA Recommended Requirements for LTC Facilities to Reopen to Visitors

Visitor Requirements

- **All Visitors Shall:**

- Be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Wear a mask, practice social distancing, and perform hand hygiene
- Sign a consent form noting understanding of visitation policies
- Any visitor who enters facility shall be subject to same testing requirements as staff and other contract vendors entering facility
- Limit movement in the facility to designated areas



FHCA Recommended Requirements for LTC Facilities to Reopen to Visitors

Staff Responsibilities

- Schedule family visits based on the amount of PPE and staffing that is available;
- Conduct screening and testing (as needed) of visitors;
- Educate visitors on and ensure that social distancing, facemask use, and visitation policies are followed by both residents and visitors;
- The visitation area be disinfected after each use, with that area containing hand washing or sanitizer stations;



FHCA Recommended Requirements for LTC Facilities to Reopen to Visitors

Activities

Beauty salons and barbers help residents feel good about themselves and are thus critical for residents' quality of life.

Hair salons should resume providing services to residents with the following precautions in place:

- Hairdresser/barber shall be screened prior to entry
- Masks are to be worn by residents and hairdresser/barber and waiting customers shall follow social distancing guidelines
- Only residents of the facility are allowed in hair salon for services; no services can be provided to outside guests
- COVID-19 positive residents and any residents who are in 14-day observation/isolation unit due to recent admit or pending test results are excluded
- Proper cleaning and sanitizing of equipment between residents shall be done

Additional Costs of Visitation

Visitation will have a significant cost impact. Additional costs facilities will be expected to incur:

- Proper PPE
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies
- Staff needed to disinfect indoor areas between visitors
- Testing (Kits range from \$25 – \$150)
- Additional staff to monitor visitation conducted safely
- Tents, fans and supplies to build safe visitation areas



Resident/Family Connections

What This is All About





For More Information

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