Facility Guidance

- Visitors should be permitted for outdoor visitation only, so long as all safety standards are met.
- Facilities should consider all implications for resident physical and mental well-being when determining when to allow facility and personal visitation decisions.
- Visitation practices should be developed that include, at a minimum, limiting visits, creating a screening process for visitors, and using sign-in sheets to track visitors.
- Providers should educate residents on the risks of the spread of COVID-19 when interacting with visitors, and the appropriate/applicable safety precautions.
- Providers must educate families, friends, and other visitors of the risks of the spread of COVID-19 and the potential health impact for not just their loved one, but all residents of the home.
- Facilities are encouraged to maintain, and in some cases enhance, virtual options to augment visitation. Examples include FaceTime, Skype, and Zoom.
- Each facility can determine how to best implement outdoor visitations for their residents in a way that works best for them.

Outdoor Visitation Best Practices

- Visits must be in accordance with the provider policy (i.e., scheduled, set hours, length of time).
- Family, friends, and other visitors should be screened with temperature taking and symptom reporting.
- Everyone should use hand sanitizer.
- Gatherings should be based on the space available to maintain social distancing, including the individual and any staff needed to assist.
- Visits must be in structured settings that are designed to encourage social distancing, and are monitored to address any misuse of wearing of masks (facial coverings) or lack of cooperation with social distancing.

Families, Friends, and Other Visitors

- Visitors must agree to have their temperatures taken, complete a health screening, and wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival.
- Masks (facial coverings) must be worn during each visit.
- Families, friends, and other visitors need to agree to minimize physical contact when possible and determined necessary by the team.
- Any visitation guidelines required by the provider to maintain the health and safety of all residents should be agreed to by all visitors.

Other Facility Types

- Visitation at other similar facilities types, including nursing homes, remains prohibited.

End-of-Life Care

- Considerations for visitors during end-of-life care has been expanded.
- Providers should notify family members several days and up to one week in advance of when a substantial change of condition has occurred and end-of-life is approaching.
- Providers should not wait until active dying to allow visitors.
- This applies to all facility types, including but not limited to, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

The State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, an office within the Ohio Department of Aging, is a good resource for families and others with loved ones in assisted living facilities during this time. The Ombudsman can be reached at 1-800-282-1206.

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