Other States: Resident Visitation during COVID-19

Task Force on Long-Term Care

Tuesday Elias
Policy Assistant, Office of the Arizona Governor
Purpose of Presentation:

- Provide up-to-date research and information on what other state or local guidance has recommended to Long-Term Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Assisted Living Homes, and Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) to implement in regard to visitations between residents and guests.

- Indoor Visitation
- Outdoor Visitation
- Summary of Measures Taken
- End-of-Life Situations (compassionate care visitation)
This is not including “end-of-life visitation”, which all 50 states allow.
States with Visitation Guidance

- Data demonstrates that the states who have guidance in place came from the state level in coordination with their department of health/medical leaders. However, accountability is led by local governments or the individual facilities.

- State guidance is largely split between allowing outdoor-only and indoor visitation. However, several states allowing indoor visitation encourage outdoor visitation, if possible.

- End-of-Life Indoor Visitations - 50 states
- Outdoor Visitation Only - 18 States
- Indoor Visitation, including outdoor - 15 States

**many indoor visitations must reach a certain phase or criteria before occurring**
Visitation

Outdoor Only:
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts *(offer off-site visitation with strict circumstances)*
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New Hampshire *(unless resident is bedridden)*
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oregon *(will be considering indoor very soon)*
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Wyoming

Indoor and Outdoor:
- Arkansas
- California
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Montana
- Nebraska [HERE]
- New York *(only for assisted living homes and ICFs, not facilities which is just outdoor)*
- North Carolina *(only for assisted living homes with 7 or less beds)*
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Virginia *(only specific circumstances)*
- West Virginia
The next two slides will be a combination, or summary, of what kind of guidelines that states have put in place for visitation.

- NO state had the same guidance
- Not every state classifies homes, facilities, ICFs, etc. the same
- In many cases, nursing homes/assisted living homes opened before large facilities/centers
Other States: Visitation Guidance Summary

Outdoor Visits Only: Some guidance includes ensuring that residents can safely travel to and from a designated outdoor setting, that the setting is protected from climate and sun exposure, and that the setting is properly disinfected between visits.

COVID-19 Requirements: The majority of states will only allow the resumption of visitation provided that the community has no new facility-onset cases of COVID-19 in past X days, and provides that the residents and guests who are visiting have not tested positive for COVID-19 and are not showing any symptoms of COVID-19.

Visitor Requirements: Each state’s guidance delineates specific criteria that visitors must meet in order to visit a resident in care facility/home, some including:

- Must be screened for symptoms and exposure to COVID-19;
- Visitors are limited in number (typically 2 or fewer) and visits must be scheduled in advance with the facility;
- Visitors should wear PPE and practice the universal COVID-19 precautions as put forth by the CDC (washing hands, maintaining 6ft. distance, avoiding physical contact, wearing a face covering, etc.);
- Some states restrict visitors by age (12 or older); others permit children to visit under supervision of parents, provided they abide by the other visitor requirements.
Other States: Visitation Guidance Summary Cont’d

**Resident Requirements:**
- Should be screened prior to the visit to ensure they are not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19;
- Should wear a mask, if tolerated and able, for the duration of the visit, while maintaining social distancing.

**Facility Requirements:** Some states are requiring several key steps from the facility in order to resume outdoor and/or indoor visitation:
- Set up and manage a schedule for visitation; many states permit the facility to limit the length of visits and frequency depending on facility needs and staffing capacity;
- Should assign staff members/caregivers to assist residents to and from the designated visitation space and maintain observation of proper precautions while providing space for confidentiality;
- The facility should provide the space, PPE, and alcohol-based hand rub for residents and visitors;
- The facility should thoroughly disinfect the visitation space between scheduled visits, and should ensure proper ventilation and accessibility;
- Visitors should be able to access the outdoor visitation space without having to enter any indoor areas of the facility (for outdoor-only visitation)
- *Indoor guidance is largely split between suggesting visits to occur in the resident’s room and having a designated non-residential area for visitation.
Thank You!

Contact: Tuesday Elias | telias@az.gov

Task Force on Long-Term Care