

Summary of ALF Visitation Rules 3-24-2021



Tips for Visitation Success:

Contact your facility to schedule any type of visit. Contact your facility prior to visiting to make sure the facility is aware of the new visitation rules for essential caregiver, outdoor, indoor, and end-of-life visitation.

If you think the facility is not following the new visitation rules, we encourage you to address that at the time of scheduling or after a visit, rather than during the visit. Call your ombudsman if you need help at 1-800-252-2412.

ALF Rule Changes:

Essential Caregiver Visitation

- COVID-19 testing is no longer required.
- Visits are allowed for all residents, including residents who are COVID-19 positive.
- Staff no longer escort to and from the visitation area or the resident's room.
- Time frames for visiting are no longer specified.

End-of-Life Visitation

- The definition of end-of-life is expanded to include residents who are near the end of life, receiving hospice services, or whose prognosis does not indicate recovery.
- A facility should not wait until death is imminent to allow visits.

*If an ALF has **offered the COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff:***

- The facility must allow outdoor and indoor visits for COVID-19 negative residents.
- A plexiglass barrier or booth is no longer required for indoor visitation.
- A resident may choose to have close or personal contact with their visitor.
- Two essential caregivers may visit a resident at the same time.

"Offer" means to administer, arrange, or give information about the COVID-19 vaccine. The facility must document each resident's choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate.

ALF Rules Remaining the Same:

- *If an ALF **does not offer residents a COVID-19 vaccine***, previous visitation rules apply. The facility must continue to follow the facility designation process to allow plexiglass indoor visits, outdoor visits, and vehicle parades, unless they have an approved exemption. Essential caregiver, closed window, and end-of-life visits are always allowed.
- All visits must be scheduled.
- A facility must be able to isolate or group residents if COVID-19 unknown or positive.
- Physical contact with the resident is allowed for essential caregiver and end-of-life visits.
- Visitors must:
 - be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and not visit if the visitor has an active COVID-19 infection or symptoms;
 - remain physically distanced from staff and other residents;
 - wear a minimum of facemask during the visit; and
 - wear more PPE in accordance with CDC recommendations, such as a gown, goggles or face shield, and gloves, if the resident is COVID-19 unknown or positive.