



## **Coronavirus Member Briefing:**

### **New Policies from APD to Limit Exposure to COVID-19 & OHA Infection Control Guidance for Workers Providing In-Home Care**

**March 10, 2020**

Late yesterday afternoon, Mike McCormick, APD Interim Director for Adult and People with Disabilities issued new additional policies to go into effect immediately, to limit exposure to COVID-19. These policies, developed in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, were issued via [NF-20-67](#) for all nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities including memory care facilities.

The policies will be updated as additional information is released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Oregon Health Authority. The Department will also provide tools to assist facilities with implementation shortly.

The Oregon Health Authority also issued interim COVID-19 infection control guidance for working providing in-home personal care. That guidance may be accessed [here](#).

The APD policies for nursing, assisted living, residential care and memory care facilities follow:

#### **APD POLICY:**

Effective March 10, 2020 and until rescinded via executive letter, facilities must follow CMS guidelines related to screening, limiting and restricting visitors (CMS Ref. QSO-20-14-NH (March 9, 2020)) and must:

1. Restrict visitation of non-essential individuals.
2. Screen 100% of essential individuals prior to entry into the building consistent with screening criteria.
3. Limit visitation of essential individuals.
  - a. If an essential visitor meets any of the screening criteria defined on page 2, visitors must:
    - i. Limit their movement within the facility to the resident's room
    - ii. Limit surfaces touched
    - iii. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) – gown, gloves and mask
    - iv. Limit physical contact with resident

All screenings must be documented via a form and logged. Screening documentation must be maintained and made available for inspection by regulatory agencies.

There can only be two essential visitors per resident at a given time. Essential individuals who meet any of the screening criteria must follow the limitations listed above.

Facilities shall post signage clearly summarizing the essential individual visitor policy.

If a facility has a suspected, presumptive, or confirmed COVID-19 patient, the facility must:

- Consult with local public health.
- Notify its licensing authority (Safety, Oversight and Quality)
- Further restrict visitation.
- Maintain a log of visitors and staff interacting with a patient who is isolated for presumptive or confirmed COVID-19.
- Be able to identify the staff who interacted with the resident and resident's environment.
- Restrict all internal group activities to prevent infection exposure to other residents.

Effective immediately, facilities shall discontinue community outings. Facilities shall provide guidance and education to residents who independently engage in community outings, but MAY NOT prevent residents from embarking on those outings.

Facilities must continue to accommodate medical visits, regardless of whether such visits are routine, preventive or critical.

Visitation and socialization promotes emotional wellness for residents. As such, facilities must provide guidance and technological solutions for "virtual visits" using tools such as FaceTime and Skype to both residents and potential visitors who are being denied entry.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- *Essential* individual includes:
  - Facility staff;
  - Outside medical personnel;
  - Vendors;
  - Adult protective services staff;
  - Licensing/ Survey staff;
  - Long Term Care Ombudsman and Deputies (not volunteers);
  - Friends or family members visiting during end-of-life stages; and
  - Friends or family who are essential for the individual's emotional well-being and care.
- *Screening* means: the evaluation by facility staff of every individual entering the facility consistent with the screening criteria.
- *Screening criteria includes identifying:*
  - Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
  - Contact, in the last 14 days, with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or under investigation for COVID-19.
  - Whether there has been international travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

- *Restricting* means: not being allowed in the facility at all.
- *Limiting* means: Not being allowed in the facility, except for certain situations, such as end-of-life situations or when a visitor is essential for the resident's emotional well-being and care.