



June 22, 2021

Oklahoma State Department of Health  
Long Term Care Facility  
123 Robert S Kerr Ste. 1702  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Long Term Care Facility,

State and Federal guidance on visitation recognizes that prolonged physical separation from family and loved ones, an integral piece to the physical and psychosocial well-being of residents, has negative effects on residents.

Current guidance has set expectations of the need, and priority, for residents to resume the ability to have visitation. Facilities should allow indoor and outdoor visitation at all times, for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), with the exception of a few circumstances.

This guidance has been prompted to remove restrictions on visitation for Long Term Care residents served by facilities that require only state oversight. It is important to take a person-centered approach to visitation, and to identify how to facilitate the opportunity for residents to have contact that is beneficial to their well-being. Facilities must also consider compassionate care needs, which extend beyond end-of-life needs.

Please note that Governor Stitt terminated his declaration of the public health emergency removing COVID-19 restrictions in the state of Oklahoma. In addition, he signed into law [HB2566](#), which requires facilities to provide reasonable access to residents and prohibits unilateral denial of visitation. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has also acknowledged the significance of resident visitation, per [QSO-20-39-NH](#) (issued 04/27/2021), and [QSO-21-14-ICF/IID & PRTF](#) (issued 06/03/2021).

If your facility has questions on how to promote robust visitation while preserving the health of your residents and staff, please contact the Oklahoma State Department of Health Long Term Care Service 405-426-8200 or email [ltc@health.ok.gov](mailto:ltc@health.ok.gov).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kevin Corbett in black ink.

Kevin Corbett  
Secretary of Health and Mental Health  
CEO, Oklahoma Health Care Authority

Handwritten signature of Dr. Lance Frye in black ink.

Dr. Lance Frye  
Commissioner of Health  
Oklahoma State Department of Health