

[QSO-20-39-NH Revised 03/10/2022](#)

A nursing home must facilitate in-person visitations consistent with applicable CMS regulations
Visitation is now allowed at ALL times for ALL visitors

CDC COVID-19 Integrated County View webpage showing Community Transmission Levels.
Click on the link below, select Oklahoma and your county to see local Community Transmission Levels.

[CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View – Community Transmission Levels](#)

Related CDC Links

[CDC - Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes](#)

[CDC - Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

[CDC - Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Topic	Red (High)	Orange (Substantial)	Yellow (Moderate)	Blue (Low)
Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention for all Visitors	<p>*** Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention are consistent with the CDC guidance for nursing homes, and should be adhered to at all times***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility until they meet the criteria used for residents to discontinue transmission-based precautions <p>Facilities should screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions (Refer to the CDC link above on Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Health care Personnel During COVID-19 Pandemic).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) • Social distancing at least six feet between persons • Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene) • Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit • Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective cohorting of residents • Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH Revised 03/10/2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, visitation should be person-centered • Consider the resident's preference and needs when it comes to physical touch. See CDC guidance: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html</u> 			
	<p>Hand Hygiene: CDC recommends using ABHR with 60-95% alcohol in healthcare settings. Unless hands are visibly soiled, an alcohol-based hand rub is preferred over soap and water in most clinical situations due to evidence of better compliance compared to soap and water. Hand rubs are generally less irritating to hands and are effective in the absence of a sink.</p> <p>See CDC's site: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/index.html</u></p>			

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Outdoors	<p>***Outdoor visitation is preferred (not required) when the resident and/or visitor are not up-to-date with all recommended vaccine doses***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adherence to Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Generally poses a lower risk of transmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increased space and airflow o Use accessible & safe spaces <p>REMINDER: Tents must comply with life safety code requirements at 42 CFR 483.90 unless waived</p>			
Indoors	<p>When conducting indoor visitation, all appropriate Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention practices should be adhered to</p> <p>***Visitation is now allowed at ALL times for ALL visitors regardless of vaccination status***</p> <p>(*in cases of outbreak see Outbreak section of this grid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Visitors should be able to adhere to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention including wear face coverings or mask & physically distance when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status o If the county Community Transmission Level is substantial to high, all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, should wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, at all times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In areas of low to moderate transmission, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, particularly if either of them is at increased risk for or are not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses o Can no longer limit the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits. o Continue to ensure physical distancing can still be maintained during peak times (e.g., lunch time, after business hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Avoid large gatherings where physical distancing CANNOT be maintained o Limit visitor movement in the facility (e.g., visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility, rather they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area) o If a resident's roommate is not up-to-date with all recommend COVID-19 doses or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visit should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, facilities should attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention o Residents, regardless of vaccination status, may choose not to wear masks <u>when other residents are not present</u> and have physical touch. Their visitors should be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit <p>CMS NH Visitation FAQ 03/10/2022</p> <p>***Residents who are on transmission-based precautions or quarantine, can still receive visitors***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Visitors should be able to adhere to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention o Visitors should be made aware of potential risk of visiting and precautions necessary in order to visit (e.g., well-fitting face masks and other appropriate PPE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Visit should occur in the resident's room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Resident should wear a well-fitting face mask (if tolerated) during the visit 			

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Visitor Testing and Vaccination	<p>***Visitors should not be required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o May ask vaccination status, but not deny entry if the visitor declines to disclose their vaccination status o Testing for visitors may be offered in counties with substantial or high Community Transmission Levels (If the facility performs a COVID test on a visitor, CLIA requirements apply <i>and</i> the facility must be able to provide testing supplies without using state provided tests) 			
Compassionate Care Visits	<p>*** Allowed at all times, for all residents ***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There are few scenarios when visitation should be limited only to compassionate care visits. In the event a scenario arises that would limit visitation for a resident (e.g., a resident is severely immunocompromised and the number of visitors the resident is exposed to needs to be kept to a minimum), compassionate care visits would still be allowed at all times o Use a person-centered approach in collaboration with residents, families, caregivers, resident representatives, and Ombudsman to identify resident need for compassionate care visits o Consider the resident's preference and needs when it comes to physical touch 			
Essential Caregivers	<p>CMS does not distinguish between Essential Caregivers and other types of visitors</p>			
Long-Term Care Ombudsman	<p>*** Allowed at all times with immediate access to any resident (See 42 CFR 483.10(f)(4)(i)(C)) ***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If visiting a resident on transmission based precautions, quarantine, or a resident who is not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses where the Community Transmission Level is substantial or high in the past 7 days, both the resident and Ombudsman should be made aware of the risks and the visit should take place in the residents room o Allow LTC Ombudsman to review resident medical, social, and administrative records 			
Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Program Representatives	<p>*** Allowed at all times with immediate access to any resident (See 42 CFR 483.10(f)(4)(i)(C)) ***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If visiting a resident on transmission based precautions, quarantine, or a resident who is not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses where the Community Transmission Level is substantial or high in the past 7 days, both the resident and P&A should be made aware of the risks and the visit should take place in the residents room o Includes the opportunity to meet and communicate privately and regularly o Must comply with disability rights laws relating to assistance in communications o For example, if communicating with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, it is recommended to use a clear mask or mask with a clear panel 			
External Health Care & Other Workers (not LTC staff)	<p>*** Include Hospice and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, dialysis technician, laboratory technician, radiology technician, social worker, clergy, barbers and beauticians, etc. ***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All healthcare workers are permitted entry as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to COVID-19 exposure or signs and symptoms of COVID-19 o Must comply with the COVID-19 testing requirements o Must wear face mask o EMS personnel do not need to be screened when attending to an emergency 			

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Communal Activities and Dining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The safest approach, regardless of vaccination status is to wear a face covering or mask and physically distance in communal areas of the facility o Visitors may eat or feed (as appropriate) with a resident following the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention. A separate area is preferred, could occur in the common area as long as the visitor is masked and physically distanced from other residents (except when eating or drinking) <p>CMS NH Visitation FAQ 03/10/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Residents who are up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses in areas of low to moderate transmission, quality of life should be balanced with risk of transmission. Consideration could be given to residents who are up-to-date & in areas of low to moderate transmission to not use a source control when in communal areas of the facility, however, residents at increased risk for severe disease should still consider wearing a mask and physical distancing 			
Outbreak	<p>***Visitors must still be allowed in the facility***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Should be made aware of the potential risk o Adhere to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention o Residents and visitors should wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status o Visits should ideally occur in the resident's room (e.g., visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility, rather they should go directly to the resident's room) 			