

QIES News You Can Use

Oklahoma State Department of Health Press Release and Other Updates

March 18, 2020



OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

(webpage links are in red)

Facilities Authorized to Restrict Visitation

For Release: March 16, 2020 – Jamie Dukes, Office of Communications (405) 271-5601

Pursuant to Governor Stitt's Executive Order 2020-06 and President Trump's declaration of a National Public Health Emergency, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is authorizing the following facilities to restrict visitors as they deem necessary to protect those they serve:

- Nursing facilities Assisted living centers
- Residential care facilities
- Adult day care centers
- Intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- Hospitals
- Other medical facilities or congregate living settings which house or serve vulnerable populations
- City and county detention facilities

This broad discretion is provided out of an abundance of caution for the vulnerable population and a recognition of the quickly evolving situation with regard to the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have issued guidance on approaches facilities may take in screening, limiting and restricting visitors. This advisement is effective until further notice or for the duration of the President's emergency declaration.

These facilities face enormous consequences should the virus be introduced in their communities and will face great challenges in actively screening visitors, while also screening their own staff. They must, as a priority, screen their own staff and conserve personal protective equipment for their staff, residents, and clients.

Facilities should make efforts, as staff and resources permit, to provide alternative communication methods for their residents, patients, and clients. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes (Revised March 13, 2019)" provides guidance for any facility managing visitation questions around end-of-life or compassionate care situations.

We recognize the disruption this guidance presents to families and loved ones but ask the citizens of Oklahoma to appreciate that these steps are taken to protect those who are depending on others to protect them. For those facilities that are offering visitation, we ask that citizens be respectful of the burden visits present and that you limit those visits as much as possible. This advisement is not related to any evidence of the virus being present in any facility and no family member should have concern if they recently visited their loved one in a facility.

Resources

Centers for Disease Control:

Preparing for COVID-19: Long-term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take Now to Prepare for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/steps-to-prepare.html>

Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/guidance-hcf.html>

Resources for Homeless Shelters. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:

Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in nursing homes (REVISED). <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-14-nh-revised.pdf>

Policy & Memos to States and Regions. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions>

Telligen COVID-19 Prevention and Preparedness Webinar

March 19 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm CDT

Feeling confused and overloaded with information about COVID-19? Join us for a Webinar and question and answer session for nursing home providers with guest speaker Dr. Gregory Gahm, MD.

This Webinar will be interactive and will provide nursing home personnel and infection preventionists the opportunity to share challenges and ask questions in regards to implementing current guidance. In addition, there will be an opportunity for participants to share their approaches and current state of preparedness.

Dr. Gregory Gahm, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Department of Geriatric Medicine, University of Colorado Medical Center, is a geriatrician serving as Chief Medical Officer for Vivage Senior Living and Medical Director for a number of Denver area nursing homes. He served as President of the Colorado Medical Directors Association (CMDA) for a number of years and works with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on a variety of task forces, the most recent of which is the CDPHE Covid-19 Task Force for Nursing Homes.

Dr. Christine LaRocca is a fellowship-trained, board-certified geriatrician, and serves as Medical Director for Telligen. Dr. LaRocca will serve as the facilitator for this Webinar.

[Register for the webinar now!](#)

Note: OSDH does not endorse or promote information presented by Telligen and/or any guest presenter Telligen has invited to speak.

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