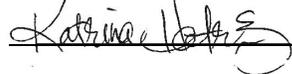




ADDENDUM TO LETTER OF DIRECTION UPDATED DECEMBER 14, 2021 FOR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Issued: February 7, 2022

Acknowledged and Directed by the Director Division of Health Improvement of the Department of Health: 
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Acknowledged and Directed by the Secretary of Aging and Long-Term Services: 
_____ Katrina Hotrum-Lopez

New Mexico recognizes the right to familial association and the struggles families have endured during the pandemic due to visitation restrictions implemented to protect residents of congregate settings. Given their congregate nature and resident population served, long-term care facility populations are at high risk of infections by respiratory pathogens like SARS-CoV-2. As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong infection prevention and control (IPC) program is critical to protect both residents and healthcare personnel (HCP) as defined by the CDC. Assisted living facilities must sustain core Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices and need to remain vigilant for SARS-CoV-2 infection among residents and HCP to prevent spread and protect residents and HCP from severe infections, hospitalizations, and death.

This letter is for all New Mexico Long-Term Care Facilities, to include assisted living facilities (ALF) and skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and should be used in conjunction with facility policies and previous Letters of Direction, for example, the [Visitation and Activity Guidance for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities](#). Please see the following updated directives and [Public Health Order \(PHO\) issued December 2, 2021](#):

1. "Up-to-date" on vaccines means fully vaccinated plus a booster, if eligibility date is met.
2. Visitors should wear a well-fitting procedure/surgical mask or KN95 respirator that completely covers the nose, mouth and chin at all times while at the facility. See the CDC guidance for choosing a well-fitting mask <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>.
3. If resident (regardless of their vaccination status) is COVID-19 positive, all visitors and the resident should wear a well-fitting mask or KN95 respirator for the duration of their visit. The visitor and resident should adhere to all core infection prevention measures.
4. Visitors with a positive COVID-19 test must wait at least 10 days since their positive test prior to visitation and must present with no COVID-19 symptoms (without the aid of fever-reducing medication).

Even if they have met [community criteria](#) to discontinue isolation or quarantine, visitors **should not visit** if they have any of the following:

- a positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2,
- [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, or
- close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection



Facilities should facilitate and encourage alternate methods for visitation (e.g. video conferencing) and communication with the resident. “ See [CDC Interim infection Prevention and Control Recommendations updated February 2, 2022](#)

“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. Facilities should screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.”. CMS Nursing Home Visitation Guidance, Revised 11/12/2021, <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>