

March 11, 2021

Re: Updated CMS Guidance

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued new guidance yesterday for visitation in nursing homes during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Revised QSO memorandum 20-39-NH updates guidance last issued September 17, 2020 and can be accessed [here](#).

According to the updated guidance, facilities should allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents, regardless of vaccination status of the resident or visitor. However, visitation should be limited in certain scenarios due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission for:

- Unvaccinated residents, if the COVID-19 county positivity rate is greater than 10 percent and less than 70 percent of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
- Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions; or
- Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met the criteria for release from quarantine.

The memorandum describes how visitation can occur when there is an outbreak, but there is evidence that the transmission of COVID-19 is contained to a single area. It also emphasizes that compassionate care visits should be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.

Please join us for a webinar Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 2 PM to address key topics including the updated CMS guidance, COVID-19 testing, and supporting safe visits. Register [here](#) today and you will receive a confirmation email.

Sincerely,



Ursel J. McElroy
Director



Stephanie McCloud
Director