



This facility, as well as CMS and CDC, recognize the importance of visiting your relatives as part of staying healthy. You can now visit your loved ones inside when the positivity rate in your nursing home's county/parish is less than 10%. In addition, if the positivity rate in your nursing home's county is more than 10%, and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated, then only residents who are fully vaccinated should receive visitors.

In the case of an outbreak at a facility, indoor visitation is still possible, as long as COVID-19 transmission is contained to a single area of the facility. Until the level of transmission is determined or should COVID-19 transmission not be contained to a single area of the facility, indoor visitation will be temporarily halted. During a visit, if your loved one is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with you as long as everyone is wearing a well-fitting face mask.

Outdoor visits are also safer when weather is good. You can check with your nursing home or local health department to find out more information on visiting your loved one. More information on CMS' visitation guidance can be found on CMS' website including compassionate care visits and visitor vaccination.

We are constantly weighing the risks of spreading COVID-19 with the risks of expanding visitation. There are a few more steps before nursing homes can allow even more visitors.

Some nursing home residents and staff are not vaccinated or haven't received their second doses. So, not everyone in a nursing home is protected from COVID-19 yet and could be infected by visitors.

Please call the facility to schedule visits with your loved ones to ensure your preferred time does not place the facility beyond safe capacity guidelines and you are not left waiting for your visit.

Also, although a vaccinated person may not "feel" sick from COVID-19, they could be infected and/or spread the virus to others. For example, if a vaccinated resident contracts the virus from a staff member or visitor, that resident will likely be protected from the disease, but could put an unvaccinated resident or staff member at serious risk.

For now, nursing home staff, patients, residents, and visitors need **to continue practicing the 3 W's: Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance.** And, nursing homes must continue to implement all current CDC infection control guidance and adhere to CMS' regulations and guidance for testing. **As vaccination increases and COVID-19 cases decrease, we look forward to more visitation and social interaction among residents, friends, family, and loved-ones.** We will continue to learn and make updates to visitation over the coming months.

So what can you do in the meantime? Get the vaccine when it's available to you. And do what you can to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The sooner we have more people vaccinated and fewer people getting sick, the sooner we can visit and hug the nursing home residents we love.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/downloads/answering-residents-loved-ones-questions.pdf>

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