



DALLAS COUNTY

Department of Health and Human Services

2377 North Stemmons Freeway

Dallas, TX, 75207

August 17, 2020

Dear Facility Administrators:

As you know, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) issued new rules on visitation at nursing facilities and long-term care facilities. These rules allow for limited visitation so long as facilities meet certain requirements.

We understand that there is a conflict between the HHSC rules and the ban on visitation at nursing facilities and long-term care facilities in the Dallas County Supplemental Order on Continuing Requirements After Expiration of Stay Home, Stay Safe (August 4, 2020). Dallas County Health and Human Services recognizes that access to family and loved ones is important for residents' health and well-being. As such, this letter serves as formal notification that facilities may allow limited visitation provided facilities meet all HHSC rules, including:

Nursing Facilities

For the health and safety of facility residents and staff, public visitation is limited to outdoor visits only. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted. Additional conditions a facility must meet to conduct limited outdoor visitation include:

- No confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in staff in the last 14 days.
- No active positive cases in residents.
- Any facility previously experiencing an outbreak that has fully recovered must be adequately staffed and following adequate infection control procedures.
- Facility staff are being tested for COVID-19 weekly.

Long-Term Care Facilities (except Nursing Facilities)

Limited indoor and outdoor visitation procedures are allowed. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted. Additional conditions a facility must meet to conduct limited visitation include:

- No confirmed COVID-19 positive staff in last 14 days.
- No active positive cases in residents.
- Adequate staffing to facilitate visitation in compliance with infection control requirements.
- Use of plexiglass as a safety barrier for indoor visitation to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Enclosed is the full list of HHSC's rules for visitation at nursing facilities and long-term care facilities, which contain additional requirements that facilities must meet. Facilities may allow for limited visitation without violating the Dallas County Order provided the facilities meet all of the HHSC requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Philip Huang, MD, MPH
Director/ Health Authority
Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS)