**Skilled Nursing Facility Guidance Document 7/6/21**

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| **Infection Control Core Principles Must be Followed at All Times**  [March 25, 2021 Health Advisory: Revised Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation](https://coronavirus.health.nhy.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated_nursing_home_visitation_guidance.pdf)  [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) | Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19   * Hand hygiene * Use of face coverings; appropriate PPE * Social distancing (at least 6 feet) * Instructional signage/education * Effective cohorting (positive, negative, unknown) * Outbreak Resident & Staff Testing per   [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) |
| **Routine Staff Testing**  [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) | Routine Testing Intervals Vary by Community COVID-19 Activity noted below **for unvaccinated staff**:   1. Low (<5%) Once a Month 2. Medium (5-10%) Once a Week 3. High (>10%) Twice a Week   [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf)  **\* DOH and the Ombudsman do not have to provide test results or vaccination records when they enter the facility.** |
| **Outbreak Testing**  [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) | When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, nursing homes should immediately begin outbreak testing and suspend all visitation (except that required under federal disability rights law), until at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed.  Please follow current CMS Outbreak Testing Guidance: [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) |
| **Where Visitation Can Occur**  [March 25, 2021 Health Advisory: Revised Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation](https://coronavirus.health.nhy.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated_nursing_home_visitation_guidance.pdf)  [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) | Visitation can be conducted through different means based on a facility’s structure and residents’ needs, such as:   * **in resident rooms** * dedicated visitation spaces * outdoors (\*preferred) |
| **Limitations to Indoor Visitation**  [March 25, 2021 Health Advisory: Revised Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation](https://coronavirus.health.nhy.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated_nursing_home_visitation_guidance.pdf)  [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) | * During Initial Round of Outbreak Testing; * Unvaccinated residents if the nursing home’s COVID-19 county positivity rate is >10% AND <70% 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 criteria for release from quarantine. |
| **Number of Visitors per Resident at One Time**  [March 25, 2021 Health Advisory: Revised Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation](https://coronavirus.health.nhy.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated_nursing_home_visitation_guidance.pdf)  [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) | **There is not a set limit of visitors that may be present at one time in the facility however nursing homes should**:   * Consider scheduling visits for a specified length of time to help ensure all residents are able to receive visitors. * Limit visitor movement in the facility. * If possible, for residents who share a room, visits should not be conducted in the resident’s room. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, facilities should attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention. * Allow for, if the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after.   Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility. |
| **Resuming Visitation After an Outbreak**  [March 25, 2021 Health Advisory: Revised Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation](https://coronavirus.health.nhy.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated_nursing_home_visitation_guidance.pdf)  [QSO 20-38 REVISED 4/27/2021](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf) | If the first round of outbreak testing reveals **no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas** (e.g., units) of the facility, **then visitation can resume for residents in areas/units with no COVID-19 cases**. However, the facility should suspend visitation on the affected unit until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.  If the first round of outbreak testing **reveals one or more additional COVID-19 cases in other** **areas/units of the facility (e.g., new cases in two or more units), then facilities should suspend visitation for all residents** (vaccinated and unvaccinated), until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.  \*While the above scenarios describe how visitation can continue after one round of outbreak testing, facilities should continue all necessary rounds of outbreak testing. |
| **Communal Dining and Activities**  [March 25, 2021 Health Advisory: Revised Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation](https://coronavirus.health.nhy.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated_nursing_home_visitation_guidance.pdf) | **Communal dining and activities may occur while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention**.   * Residents may eat in the same room with social distancing (e.g., limited number of people at each table and with at least six feet between each person). * Additionally, group activities may also be facilitated (for residents who have fully recovered from COVID-19, and for those not in isolation for observation, or with suspected or confirmed COVID19 status) with social distancing among residents, appropriate hand hygiene, and use of a face covering (except while eating). |
| **Salon Services**  **[November 4, 2020 Health Advisory: Adult Care Facility and Nursing Homes](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/salon-services-final-11-4-2020.pdf)**  **[Resumption of Salon Services](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/salon-services-final-11-4-2020.pdf)** | * Testing (or arranging for the testing of) beauticians and barbers on each day they provide services within the facility. Evidence of a negative test within the last day (24 hours) must be presented prior to initiating services; * Screening by facility staff for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature check; and * Washing of hands when entering the building, prior to initiating services, and between residents.   **\*Only one resident allowed in salon at a time**. |
| **POC Antigen Testing** | If the facility is currently approved, which is typically as a limited-service laboratory, **they can continue to rapid test**.  \* For further questions please contact [clep@health.ny.gov](mailto:clep@health.ny.gov) |