



# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

## HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE

### EMERGENCY ORDER – NURSING FACILITIES VISITATION UPDATE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All licensed Nursing Facilities in Louisiana

FROM: LDH Office of Public Health *Joseph Kanter, M.D.*  
Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH, State Health Officer

RE: State Health Officer Order - Nursing Facility Visitation

DATE: April 29, 2021  
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**EFFECTIVE DATES:** This Emergency Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice from the State Health Officer.

#### **RATIONALE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States, effective January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760, *et seq.*, a state of public health emergency resulting from the outbreak of “coronavirus disease 2019” (“COVID-19”) was declared to exist in the entire State of Louisiana by Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic/public health emergency in Louisiana continues. Measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. The measures ordered herein are in line with the best guidance and direction from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The State Health Officer expressly finds that the measures ordered herein are necessary to help control and prevent further spread of COVID-19, a communicable, contagious, and infectious disease that represent a serious and imminent threat to the public health.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the powers vested in me by L.R.S. 40:1 *et seq.*, particularly La. R.S. 40:4(A)(13) and La. R.S. 40:5(A)(2), I, Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, do hereby issue the following emergency order:

**(1) All Nursing Facilities licensed in Louisiana are mandated and directed to follow the provisions of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), QSO-20-39-NH, entitled “Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 (REVISED)”, as revised/issued by CMS on April 27, 2021. A copy of such CMS Memorandum is attached.**

**(a) Each nursing facility shall revise its current visitation policy and procedure to reflect these new CMS provisions; such revisions shall include provisions in the facility’s policies and procedures to maintain documentation, such as a visitor’s log, that indicates, at a minimum, the following:**

- (i) Name of Resident receiving a visitor;**
- (ii) Name of and contact number for Visitor(s);**
- (iii) Date of the visit;**
- (iv) Time of arrival and time of departure of the Visitor(s); and**
- (v) Specific Location of the Visit on the facility’s campus.**

**(2) Any licensed-only (*ie*, not certified for Medicare/Medicaid) nursing facility in Louisiana may impose stricter visitation policies than mandated in the CMS QSO-20-39-NH (Revised as of April 27, 2021) if the facility chooses, provided that the facility has a policy and procedure in place to address such visitation restrictions.**

**(3) This State Health Officer Order replaces and supersedes any previously issued State Health Officer orders/notices to licensed nursing facilities regarding visitation.**

Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on April 29, 2021.



Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer

Concurrence:



4/29/21

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips  
LDH Secretary

DATE

