



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All Licensed Health Care Facilities in Louisiana

FROM: LDH Office of Public Health
Jimmy Guidry, State Health Officer

LDH Health Standards
Cecile Castello, Deputy Assistant Secretary

RE: Visitor Restriction

DATE: March 12, 2020

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The State of Louisiana, Department of Health ("LDH"), is committed to taking critical steps to ensure public health and safety; to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in healthcare facilities, the State of Louisiana, Department of Health, is **DIRECTING AND REQUIRING** that all licensed healthcare facilities in Louisiana that receive visitors, adhere to the following provisions, restrictions, and limitations, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**:

A. VISITOR RESTRICTION

A.1. Any licensed healthcare facility in Louisiana that receives visitors shall **IMMEDIATELY PROHIBIT** all non-essential visitors for thirty (30) days; this 30 day mandatory prohibition of visitors shall commence on March 12, 2020, and shall end on April 10, 2020, unless otherwise extended by written notice from the Department.

(a) Visitors deemed essential, vital, or necessary to the patient's/client's/resident's care and well-being, as determined by the individual healthcare facility after consultation with the family/responsible party, may be allowed into the facility pursuant to policies/procedures adopted by the healthcare facility, provided that such visitor does not meet the definition of Restricted Person [see definition in Paragraph A.3 below].

A.2. However, this prohibition on non-essential visitors is subject to the following exception:

(a) A Visitor who does not meet the definition of a Restricted Person [see definition in Paragraph A.3 below] may be allowed to enter the facility as a non-essential visitor, subject to the facility's approval, in situations involving a resident/client/patient who is on end-of-life care.

A.3. A Restricted Person is defined as a person who meets any one or more of the following criteria:

(a) Has signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat (as assessed by the facility);

(b) In the last 14 days, has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or is under investigation for COVID-19, or has been or is currently ill with respiratory illness;

(c) Has been on international travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries, please see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

(d) Is residing in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.

A.4. A facility shall immediately implement a policy and procedure to offer alternative means of communication for residents/clients/patients and their families and friends. Alternative means of communication may include virtual visitations and communications (telephone access, Skype, Face Time, other video-communications, etc.). Facility should consider assigning staff as primary contact for families for inbound calls, and should consider conducting regular outbound calls to keep families up to date.

A.5. A Facility shall immediately notify responsible parties and family members of prohibitions on visitation and the alternative means of communication for residents/clients.

B. ELECTIVE PROCEDURES

B.1 The Department recommends that all facilities consider limiting and restricting all elective or voluntary medical procedures in their facilities, for thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice.

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