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## **Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facility Guidance**

### **Background**

On September 17, 2020, CMS issued a new memorandum on nursing home visitation which superseded and replaced previously issued federal guidance and recommendations regarding visitation.

This document, “Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facility Guidance,” provides updated recommendations and guidelines from the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) for skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities.

### **Updated Recommendations from the WDH for all Long-term Care Facilities**

Due to the prevalence of COVID-19 in Wyoming, as of October 1, 2020, the WDH recommends that all skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities follow the guidelines below to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to keep residents and staff members as safe as possible.

- Facilities should allow indoor, outdoor, and compassionate care in-person visitation according to the CMS memorandum dated September 17, 2020 (<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh.pdf>).
- Barbering and cosmetology services may be provided to residents under the following conditions:
  - Barbering and cosmetology services may only occur if there are no suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 among residents or staff, there are no residents in transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 infection, and it has been at least 14 days after a positive test among a staff member or resident. This does not include the quarantine of new admissions or readmissions with no suspicion of COVID-19.
  - The barber or cosmetologist must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to an individual with COVID-19 within the last 14 days prior to providing services. Any individual with symptoms or exposure within the last 14 days must not be allowed to provide service. For guidance on COVID-19 symptom screening, please see Department of Health guidance at: [https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/WDH-Guidance-for-Employee-Screening\\_COVID-19\\_6.15.2020.pdf](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/WDH-Guidance-for-Employee-Screening_COVID-19_6.15.2020.pdf) (link [here](#)).

- The residents must wear a face mask at all times while receiving service, unless medically contraindicated.
  - The barber or cosmetologist must wear a face mask while providing service or while within 6 feet of other individuals; eye protection such as a face shield or goggles is also recommended.
  - Equipment and surfaces must be cleaned and sanitized between each resident.
  - The barber or cosmetologist must perform hand hygiene before and after contact with each resident, and residents must perform hand hygiene prior to and after receiving services.
  - Residents must maintain 6 feet of physical distancing from other residents while receiving or awaiting services.
  - The barber or cosmetologist may only be allowed in locations within the facility where they are providing services.
  - Services should be performed in areas that are well-ventilated.
- Continue to screen all residents and staff for symptoms of respiratory illness and ensure those residents suspected of having COVID-19 are screened by a healthcare provider and tested for the virus.
  - Continue enhanced infection control practices, including proper hand wash techniques, increase in the availability and accessibility of hand-washing stations and alcohol-based rubs (ABHRs), re-enforcing strong hand hygiene practices and no-touch receptacles for disposal, and requiring staff and allowed visitors to perform hand hygiene upon entering the building. Staff should also regularly clean and disinfect the facility, paying special attention to high-touch areas and surfaces. Staff should use personal protective equipment (PPE) when appropriate, following CDC, CMS, and WDH guidance.
  - Communal dining and activities may occur if physical distancing of at least 6 feet between each person, with the exception of spouses or roommates, can be maintained. For facilities with active or suspected COVID-19 cases, communal dining and activities should be avoided.
  - Skilled nursing facilities should conduct testing of staff and outbreak testing of all residents and staff according to the Interim Final Rule CMS-3401-IFC, dated August 26, 2020 (<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf>). Assisted living facilities may choose to either follow the CMS testing guidance for Skilled nursing facilities or continue to test 20% of residents and staff every two weeks as recommended in previous WDH guidance.
  - Follow the testing and infection control recommendations of WDH when a case of COVID-19 is detected among a resident or staff member.
  - Facilities may allow students to perform clinical rotations in the facility. Students should be trained in proper personal protective equipment (PPE) usage and educated on the risks of COVID-19 in the population they are serving and should wear all proper PPE for their roles and tasks while in the facility. Students should participate in staff symptom screening protocols. Students should be tested as staff members during both routine testing and outbreak testing.

The WDH will continuously re-evaluate these recommendations and update guidance as necessary based on current conditions of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wyoming.

More information about COVID-19 can be found at:

- <https://health.wyo.gov/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>
- <https://www.cms.gov/>