



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING**

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

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**Eric C. Friedlander**  
Acting Secretary

**Victoria L. Elridge**  
Commissioner

**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Assisted Living Facilities  
Regarding Visitation  
March 10, 2020 4:00pm**

On March 4, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued guidance recommending that residential facilities screen visitors and staff for symptoms of respiratory infection, international travel to restricted countries, and contact with anyone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19. Link to the CMS guidance:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfopolicy-and/qso-20-14-nh.pdf>

In accordance with Governor Beshear's recommendations which are in alignment with the Center for Disease Control and the Department for Public Health, DAIL is strongly encouraging all assisted living communities to restrict visitors to assisted living facilities. This decision was made based upon the most recent information provided by the Department for Public Health. Specifically:

- In order to protect Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens, DAIL strongly encourages communities to restrict visitors to assisted living facilities. For example, a daughter who visits her mother every Monday, would cease these visits, and limit her visits to only those situations when her mom has a significant issue. Also, during the visit, the daughter would limit her contact with her mother and only meet with her in her room or a place the facility has specifically dedicated for visits.
- DAIL encourages each community to post signs made available from the CDC website on hand washing in each residence room and if a visitor needs to come in contact with a resident, to have them wash their hands before and after leaving the room.
- If your community is equipped, DAIL encourages your community to set up a process that would allow for virtual communication between residence and their loved ones.
- DAIL strongly encourages assisted living communities to have the following screening precautions in place before visitors interact with residence:

- Screen visitors at the entrance of a facility
  - Visitors must have their temperature taken at the facility entrance before entry to the facility can be granted
  - Visitors with no fever with a temperature below 100 degrees Fahrenheit, are to be escorted by facility staff both to the and from the patient's room
  - At no time is the visitor to be out of the room unescorted
  - Visitors with a temperature reading of 100.1 degrees Fahrenheit and above should not be granted entry to the facility and should be advised to seek medical attention if the visitor:
    - Shows additional signs or symptoms of respiratory infection such as cough and sore throat;
    - Has recently traveled internationally to restricted countries; or
    - Has had contact with someone with or under investigation for COVID-19
  - If a visitor is denied entry to visit a loved one, the Cabinet further recommends that facilities should have phones available for patients to speak with visitors.
- For questions regarding infection control, transmission-based precautions, and use of personal protective equipment, please call the Healthcare-Associated Infection/Antibiotic Resistance Prevention Program:
    - Andrea Flinchum (502) 564-3261 ext. 4248
    - Michael Curran (502) 564-3261 ext. 4249
    - Chad Eldridge ((502) 564-3261 ext. 4251
  - If you have any questions related to your Assisted Living Community, please contact Buddy Hoskins, DAIL Division Director for Quality Assurance and Improvement at 502-564-6930 ext 3531.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit the following sites:

**CDC General COVID-19** [www.cdc.gov/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19)

**Detailed information specific to long term care** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-facilities.html>

**Ky Dept. for Public Health** [www.KYCOVID19.ky.gov](http://www.KYCOVID19.ky.gov)