

**Variations between**

**AHCA Recommendations and CMS Revised Guidance on for Visitation during COVID-19**

The new guidance issued by CMS on 3/9/2020 has the same goals and instructions for preventing COVID-19 from entering facilities as AHCA’s guidance, with a few areas of slight variation.

<b>Areas of slight variation in guidance</b>			
	<b>AHCA</b>	<b>CMS</b>	<b>Variation</b>
<b>Screening Protocol:</b>			
Respiratory symptoms	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	AHCA does not recommend temperature checks; CMS mentions “offering” them but does not require. Temperature checks will pull nurses off the floor.
Anyone who has worked in another health care setting with confirmed COVID-19 cases	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	CMS does not specifically mention this; AHCA notes that this recommendation may need to change if COVID-19 is widespread in the community
In the last 14 days, has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID- 19, or under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Slightly different wording: AHCA does not mention contact, but recommends restricting all visitors when there are any confirmed COVID-19 cases in the surrounding community
Been on a cruise or in another setting with confined crowds in the last 14 days	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Both CMS and AHCA guidance is to allow visitors if absolutely necessary – CMS also specifies either restricting visitors who have been on a cruise or large crowds, or asking them to wear masks
<b>Require all individuals to wash hands at entry</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	CMS does not specifically require but suggests providing instruction on hand hygiene
<b>Create “clean rooms” and disinfect after use</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	CMS suggests this as best practice for visitors to meet with residents; AHCA does not as it may not be feasible
<b>Restrict interaction with other stakeholders (volunteers, vendors, suppliers)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	CMS suggest suppliers leave supplies outside; AHCA recommends screening everyone at entry and limit for essential visits
<b>Recommends restricting gatherings in the community (outside the facility)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	AHCA notes obvious exception for health care visits outside the facility
<b>Recommends restricted activities inside the facility (internal group activities)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	

**Both AHCA and CMS recommend**

Recommend further restrictions or limitations to visitation and, generally, discourage visitation at this time
Screen for international travel within the last 14 days to areas where COVID-19 cases have been confirmed
Encourage other methods of communication for residents interacting with their loved ones
Update emergency contact info with families
Encourage restricted movement when visitation occurs
Social distancing practices, such as no hand shaking or hugging
Recommend <a href="#">signage</a> at entry, and elsewhere, and education on other infection control strategies (hand hygiene, social distancing)
Recommend visitors use PPE