

# COVID-19 OUTDOOR VISITATION GUIDANCE

## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (ODH) GUIDANCE

Recognizing the effects of isolation on the health and well-being of residents in long-term care settings, the Ohio Department of Health has issued guidance to allow for outdoor visitation.

The guidance is designed to reduce transmission and prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 in long-term care settings. The risk of virus transmission in our community and the need for meaningful connections with loved ones can be balanced under the following conditions:

### PROVIDER CRITERIA

- Establish a schedule for visitation hours. Work with prospective visitors individually.
- Ensure adequate staff are present to help with outdoor transition of residents and wipe down any visitation areas as necessary.
- Maintain visual observation of visit but provide as much distance as necessary to allow for privacy.
- Screen visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at a location outside the building.
- Ensure residents and visitors wear a mask or other face covering at all times.
- Ensure outdoor visitation space is accessible without visitors having to walk through the building.
- Ensure appropriate social distancing of at least 6 feet between the visitor and resident.
- Provide alcohol-based hand rub to visitors and provide signage or verbal reminders of correct use.
- Establish additional guidelines as needed to ensure the safety of visitations, setting operations and individual needs of residents.

*Homes retain the right to deny an outdoor visit if the resident or visitor does not comply with infection control guidance or if certain setting and community conditions exist*



### RESIDENT CRITERIA

- Current COVID-19 positive residents are not eligible for outside visits.
- Residents with current COVID-19 signs or symptoms are not eligible for outside visits.
- Residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation are not eligible for outside visits.
- Residents should wear a mask, or other face covering, where possible, for the entire visit.
- Residents are encouraged to have a contact-free visit.



Weather Consideration:  
Visits should occur on days when there is no weather warning.

### VISITOR CRITERIA

- Must wear a mask or other facial covering during entire visit unless medically contraindicated.
- Must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and attest to their COVID status if known.
- Must use alcohol-based hand rub upon entering an exiting the visitation area.
- Should not walk through building to get to outdoor visitation space.
- Must sign in and provide contact information.
- Must maintain 6 feet social distance.
- No physical contact (holding hands, hugs, kissing) is allowed.
- Must stay in designated locations at setting.
- All visitors shall be over the age of two and must comply with screening and social distancing requirements.
- Pets must be under control of the visitors.

