

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

Ron DeSantis
Governor

DATE: September 2, 2020

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Barbara Palmer
Director

SUBJECT: Guidance Document for Group Home and Foster-Care Operators Regarding Visitors

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State Office

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On March 14, 2020, Governor DeSantis signed Executive Order 20-52. The executive order included a prohibition on visitors in certain facilities including APD licensed group/foster homes. Based on the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) Emergency Order (EO) No. 20-009, Group Home and Foster-Care Facilities must adhere to the provisions therein. Please review the EO 20-009 carefully, as this memorandum is not a substitute for the Order. Some of the provisions in the Order include:

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1. Facilities must have written policies on hand regarding visitation and infection prevention and control.
2. Residents may designate up to:
 - a. Two essential caregivers as defined in DEM EO 20-009;
 - b. Two compassionate caregivers as defined in DEM EO 20-009; and
 - c. Five general visitors.
3. Facilities must allow compassionate care visitors and essential caregivers entrance, regardless of whether general visitation is permitted. The compassionate care visitors and essential caregivers must still pass the screening and adhere to the requirements in the EO and of the facility.
4. Facilities must schedule all visits in advance, and visitation days and duration of visits must be reasonable.
5. General visitation is an option. To accept general visitors, the facility must have:
 - a. Had no new facility-onset of resident COVID-19 cases in the previous 14 days other than in a dedicated wing or unit that accepts COVID-19 cases from the community;
 - b. been 14 days with no new facility-onset of staff COVID-19 cases where the staff person was in the facility in the 10 days prior to the positive test;

- c. a policy to immediately cease general visitation if a resident is positive for COVID-19, or a staff tests positive if the staff person was in the facility in the 10 days prior to the positive test;
 - d. sufficient staff to support management of visitors;
 - e. sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for all visitors, residents, and staff;
 - f. adequate cleaning and disinfecting supplies; and
 - g. referral hospitals for the facility that have capacity.
6. The visitation area must be of sufficient size to allow for social distancing of a minimum of six feet between individuals present and may be outside, as long as outside visitation provides protection from the weather.
7. The visitation area must be disinfected after each use.
8. The visitation area must have a hand washing or sanitizing station.
9. Residents are prohibited from receiving general visitors if they are quarantined, positive for COVID-19 and not recovered (as defined by most recent CDC guidance), or symptomatic for COVID-19.
10. Residents must be accompanied by staff to the visiting area and should ensure that this route does not enter any COVID-19 isolation space.
11. Residents and staff must wash hands before and after the visitation.
12. Residents and staff must wear masks and gloves for the duration of the visit, if tolerated.

General visitor requirements:

1. Prior to entry to the visitation space all visitors must:
 - a. be 18 years or older;
 - b. have temperature checked;
 - c. complete the visitation questionnaire;
 - d. be entered into the visitor log, including the resident to be visited and contact information for the visitor;
 - e. agree to wear appropriate PPE;
 - f. agree to maintain social distance of at least six feet with staff and residents, and limit movement in the facility; and

- g. wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer which contains at least 60% alcohol content.
- 2. All visitors, residents, and staff must wear PPE throughout the visit.
- 3. A maximum of two visitors per residents are allowed at a time.
- 4. At conclusion of visit, visitors, residents, and staff must wash their hands.
- 5. After visiting the home, visitors must notify the facility if they develop fever or COVID-19 related symptoms within 14 days of visiting the facility, as well as alert the facility if they obtain a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.