

The following guidance was approved by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services on November 18, 2020.

Guidance for Non-Medical Trips and Home Visits Away from the Facility

Many nursing facility and assisted living residents wish to go on non-medical outings or home visits away from the facility with a friend or family member-including to celebrate the holiday(s).

Non-medical outings and home visits should only occur when a facility is eligible to facilitate indoor visitation (i.e. not in outbreak status and county positivity is color-coded yellow or green).

If indoor visitation is prohibited beyond compassionate care (i.e. in outbreak status or county positivity is color-coded red), non-medical trips and home visits away from the facility should not occur.

When **non-medical outings** occur the following infection control protocols should be maintained:

1. The resident(s) and the driver should both wear a face covering over both the mouth and nose for the entire outing.
2. Any facility staff involved must wear surgical masks and protective eyewear.
3. In general, depending on the size of the group, no other person but the resident(s) and the driver should be in the vehicle, and social distancing should be maintained between all parties. All parties should wear a face covering over both the mouth and nose.
4. When possible, social distancing should be maintained when entering and exiting the vehicle.
5. When practicable, windows should be opened or partially opened to encourage air circulation and outdoor air should be utilized in the vehicle's air handling system.
6. The resident(s) and driver should avoid additional destination stops after pick-up and before returning to the facility. If additional stops cannot be prevented, everyone in the car should follow infection prevention protocols when outside the car (e.g. masks, social distancing, hand hygiene).
7. Hand hygiene should be performed by both the resident(s), staff, and driver before and after the ride.
8. Touch points/high contact surfaces of the vehicle should be cleaned and disinfected with an approved COVID-19 product before and after the outing.

When **home visits** occur, the following infection control protocols should be maintained:

1. Whenever possible, social distancing (6-feet) or use of face coverings over both the mouth and nose should be maintained by all parties.
2. Family gatherings should be limited to no more than eight people.
3. Family members residing in the home who have tested positive for COVID, have signs or symptoms of the virus, or who have been exposed to a person with COVID should be isolated. Family members not residing in the home who have tested positive for COVID, have signs or symptoms of the virus, or who have been exposed to a person with COVID should not attend the family gathering.

4. Gathering should be held outdoors, when possible. If this is not feasible, the room or space should be well-ventilated (e.g., open windows), limit use of oscillating fans to minimize risk of potential virus spread.
5. Tables and chairs should be arranged to allow the recommended 6-foot social distancing.
6. If planning activities for adults and/or kids, consider those where the recommended 6-foot social distancing can be maintained and multiple persons touching the same item can be avoided, like sidewalk chalk art.
7. Adequate soap or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be available.
8. The number of people handling or serving food should be limited. The CDC recommends avoiding buffet-style meals.
9. Contact with commonly-touched surfaces or shared items should be limited and should be disinfected with a COVID-approved disinfectant.

Upon return from a non-medical outing or home visit:

- The resident must be monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID 19.
- The resident must remain in quarantine for 14 days, preferably in a transitional unit, and the facility is encouraged to complete a COVID PCR test, prior to discontinuing quarantine.
- If the resident develops signs or symptoms of COVID during the quarantine period, then a COVID test should be performed. If the test results are confirmed positive, then the resident will need to remain in isolation until the criteria for discontinuation of isolation are met.
- Facility staff must follow transmission-based precautions when providing care.

Please note:

- If a facility may not be able to accommodate a 14-days quarantine when the resident wishes to return to the facility, due to a roommate or other situation, the resident should not be readmitted.
- This possibility should be explained to the resident and family prior to the resident's departure.
- Facilities are also encouraged to propose staggered home visits to residents and families as a possible option.

Additional guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

- [Celebrating Thanksgiving](#) (updated 11/09/20)
- [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#) (updated 11/04/20)
- [Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (updated 10/21/20)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home](#) (updated 09/08/20)
- [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#) (updated 10/21/20)
- [Personal and Social Activities](#) (updated 10/29/20)
- [Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings](#) (updated 11/09/20)
- [Older Adults: Considerations When Venturing into a Public Setting](#) (updated 09/11/20)

Additional guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:

- [CMS QSO-20-39-NH: Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19](#)