



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Human Services

*Safety, Oversight and Quality*

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Reference: 20-65 Provider Alert

Date: February 29, 2020

To: Nursing Facility Providers, Community Based Care Providers & Adult Foster Home Providers

From: Department of Human Services  
Aging and People with Disabilities  
Safety, Oversight and Quality Section

Subject: **COVID – 19 (Coronavirus)**

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Dear long-term care providers:

This alert is being sent to ask for your immediate action in helping prevent the spread of illness in Oregon long-term care facilities.

In recent days, concerns have grown in Oregon about the recent occurrences of a new strain of coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. COVID-19 is a new respiratory illness that has sickened tens of thousands of people worldwide.

It is very important that we do all we can to ensure that vulnerable populations, including older adults and people with disabilities, are not exposed to the virus.

We are sending this alert to encourage you to post a notice to visitors to practice prevention when entering a long-term care facility. An example notice is attached that may be customized for your specific facility.

We have also attached informational materials from the Oregon Health Authority to help educate the public about how to prevent the spread of flu viruses.

*“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”*

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Normally, long term care facilities must permit visitors as residents choose. Via this alert, we are notifying providers that the Department of Human Services will not take any negative regulatory action for facilities acting in good faith when they deny visitation.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Michael McCormick  
Interim Director  
Aging and People with Disabilities Program  
Department of Human

## ATTACHMENTS

For general information about the DHS Office of Safety, Oversight and Quality, visit the DHS Web site at [www.oregon.gov/DHS/](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/). If you have questions about this alert, please contact the Nursing Facility Licensing Unit at [NFLicensing@state.or.us](mailto:NFLicensing@state.or.us)