



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Department of Human Services**

*Safety, Oversight and Quality*

PO Box 14530, Salem, OR 97309

3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, OR 97303

Phone: (503) 373-2227

Fax (503) 378-8966

**Ref: NF-20-71 Provider Alert**

**Date:** March 26, 2020

**TO:** Nursing Facilities  
Adult Foster Homes Residential Care Facilities  
Assisted Living Facilities Memory Care Communities

**FROM:** Safety, Oversight, and Quality

**SUBJECT: Essential Individual Facility Access**

Dear Providers:

The Department is sending this provider alert to reiterate and clarify information that has been previously shared to providers.

**Please read this carefully to ensure your staff are following these guidelines.**

The Department has received reports of facilities restricting all access to essential individuals including outside medical personnel, PT/OT/ST hospice, and EMS personnel. These are essential individuals that require access to the facility in order to ensure the appropriate care of the residents. The facility must follow the screening and protective measures outlined below, however the facility cannot deny access to essential individuals.

As outlined in [Provider Alert NF-20-69](#), the Department of Human Services adopted policies to limit the potential for residents' exposure to novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) including limiting entry to long term care facilities and allowing entry only to those deemed as essential individuals.

To reiterate, the [Executive Letter issued by Mike McCormick](#), Interim Director, Aging & People with Disabilities Program dated March 18, 2020:

Essential individual includes all of the following:

- Facility staff and prospective staff seeking employment;
- Outside medical personnel such as doctors, hospice staff, therapists, mental health therapists, or other facility staff assessing a resident prior to admission;
- Emergency responders including EMS, Fire and Police;
- Vendors, but only when access to facility is required;
- Adult protective services staff engaged in an active adult abuse investigation;
- Licensing/Survey staff;
- Long Term Care Ombudsman and Deputies (not volunteers); Legal guardians; and
- Friends and family members visiting during end-of-life stages.

All essential individuals need to be screened upon entry to the facility

Screening means assessing these individuals for:

- Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
- Contact, in the last 14 days, with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or under investigation for COVID-19.
- Whether there has been international travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries visit:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

If any essential individuals meet any of the screening above, the facility must:

- Limit their movement within the facility to the resident's room; and
- Limit surfaces touched; and
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) – gown, gloves and mask; and
- Limit physical contact with residents.

## Admission Screening or Assessment of a Resident Being Discharged:

- The facility must allow one staff member from a facility that is required to screen and/or assess a resident prior to admission to their respective facility (for example, staff at an Adult Foster Home may need to screen or assess a resident prior to agreeing to an admission).
- In these instances, the facility shall attempt to allow receiving facilities alternate means to screen and/or assess residents care needs, such as video conferencing or by phone, but cannot restrict visitation if there are no alternatives.

If you are a nursing facility provider and have questions about this alert, please contact the Nursing Facility Licensing Unit at:

[NF.Licensing@state.or.us](mailto:NF.Licensing@state.or.us)

For questions regarding Community Based Care Facilities report to:

[CBC.Team@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:CBC.Team@dhsosha.state.or.us)

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/).