



Long-Term Care Visitation Updates

Senate Aging and Long-Term Care Policy Committee | March 17, 2021

PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

- On Wednesday, March 10th, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidance for healthcare infection prevention and control in response to vaccinations
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html#Visitation>
- CMS and MDH have adopted this guidance

- On Wednesday, March 10th, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released updated Nursing Home (NH) Visitation Guidance
 - QSO 20-39 Revised
(<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>)
- On Thursday, March 11th, MDH adopted CMS QSO 20-39 guidance for both NH and Assisted Living-type (AL) provider settings

- Defines fully vaccinated:

People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after their second vaccine dose if the vaccine type requires two doses (like Pfizer or Moderna), or two weeks after they get a single dose of a vaccine (like Johnson & Johnson)

- Visits do not need to be supervised or monitored. If a provider sees infection control breaches, they are responsible to provide education.
- Compassionate care visits should be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.
- Screening – Verify with visitors whether they've had close contact with COVID-19 positive person in prior 14 days. If they have, they will not be allowed to visit regardless of vaccination status.

- Facilities should allow indoor visitation at all times, and for all residents, regardless of vaccination status except for a few exceptions
 - See flowcharts on next slides
- Outdoor visitation continues to be preferred, whenever feasible

LTC Outbreak Status Guidance

- If a new COVID-19 case among residents or staff is identified, facilities should immediately suspend all visitation and begin outbreak testing.
 - If the first round of outbreak testing shows **no additional COVID-19 infections in other areas (e.g., units) of the facility**, then visitation can start again for residents in areas/units with no COVID-19 cases.
 - If the first round of outbreak testing **shows one or more additional COVID-19 cases in other areas/units of the facility** (e.g., two or more units affected) then facilities should suspend visitation for all residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated), until the facility meets the criteria to stop outbreak testing.

LTC Exceptions Guidance

- Facilities should allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents, except in a few circumstances when visitation should be limited:
 - If a resident is unvaccinated and less than 70% of residents are vaccinated, **unvaccinated** residents are unable to have visitation.
 - Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infections
 - Residents in quarantine

- Visits should still be conducted using social distancing of 6 feet.
 - If there is personal contact during compassionate care visits, it should be done following infection prevention guidelines and for a limited time.
- Fully vaccinated residents can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitted face mask (if tolerated) and performing hand hygiene before and after.

- While encouraged, visitors should not be required to be tested or vaccinated (or to show proof) as a condition of visitation.
- Infection control core principles and practices remain important.



Non-Medical Outings Guidance Updates

- Residents who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine after non-medically necessary outings unless they spend 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period within 6 feet of someone who can spread COVID-19 (high risk exposure with someone who has COVID-19).
- Residents who are fully vaccinated may gather indoors or outdoors with other people who are fully vaccinated.
- Residents who are fully vaccinated can visit indoors or outdoors with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 infection.

Non-Medical Outings Guidance Updates

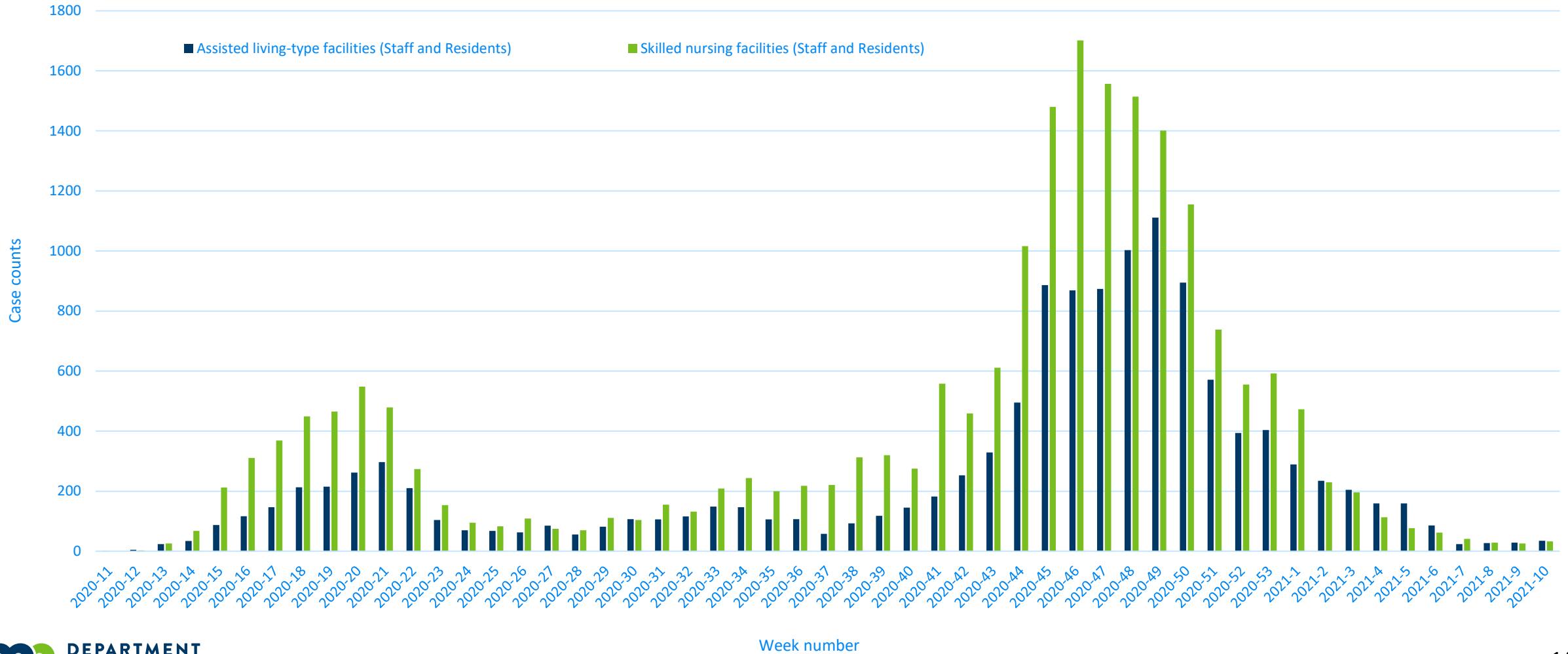
- If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with the people they are visiting.
- If a resident who is fully vaccinated chooses to attend a place of worship or other group event, or to shop or eat in public establishments, the resident should follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention.
- MDH strongly encourages attending group events only when the 14-day county percent positivity rate is below 5% .

Non-Medical Outings Guidance Updates

Fully vaccinated residents should continue to:

- Take steps to prevent contact with COVID-19.
- Follow infection control practices.
- Wear masks, stay 6 feet from others, and take other steps to lower their risk when visiting with people from multiple households who are not vaccinated.
- Comply with any current state mandates or restrictions on group size at the time of the outing.
- Continue to follow current guidance inside LTC setting as CMS and CDC have not yet modified dining or activity guidance.

COVID-19 Cases in MN Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities by Week



Thank you.