



Health Facility Licensing and Certification

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Interim COVID-19 Visitation Guidance for Acute Care Facilities

Background: Health care facilities currently face an enormous challenge in providing safe care to patients during a pandemic. On March 19, 2020, Governor Brown issued [Executive Order No. 20-10](#) which directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide guidance on visitation and screening at hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers in order to ensure the safety of patients and health care workers and to slow the spread of COVID-19. Patient and staff safety is also a concern at outpatient renal dialysis facilities.

Authority: Executive Order 20-10 and ORS 442.025.

Applicability: This guidance applies to the following health care facilities as further defined in ORS 442.015:

- Ambulatory Surgery Centers
- Hospitals
- Outpatient Renal Dialysis Facilities

Guidance: No later than March 27, 2020, facilities subject to this guidance shall adopt and enforce policies and procedures that limit entry into facilities to essential individuals and require the screening of those essential individuals prior to entry. Essential individuals include:

- Facility staff and prospective staff seeking employment.
- Facility healthcare volunteers.
- Outside medical personnel.
- Emergency responders including EMS, Fire and Police.
- Vendors, but only when access to facility is required.
- Licensing/Survey staff.
- Legal guardians.
- Friends or family members who must accompany a patient to a procedure, when no facility staff are available to provide that service.
- Friends or family members visiting during end-of-life stages.
- A spouse, spousal equivalent or other support person to accompany an individual giving birth.

Policies and Procedures regarding screening shall:

- Limit points of entry to the facility;
- Require at each point of entry screening that includes visual observation and questions regarding:
 - Symptoms including fever, coughing and shortness of breath;
 - Diagnosis or testing related to COVID-19;
 - Contact with individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19; and
 - Recent travel history.
- Refuse entry to any individual who is determined during the required screening to be a suspected, presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 patient;
- Permit no more than two essential individuals to be with a patient at any one time except for current facility staff, health care volunteers, outside medical personnel, and emergency responders including EMS, Fire and Police.
- Provide education to essential individuals regarding:
 - Hand Hygiene: Before entering a patient room, essential individuals shall wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or clean hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer,
 - Avoidance of face touching; and
 - Use of good respiratory etiquette: Covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow, and proper use and disposal of tissue;
- Require documentation of entry into the facility and screening of essential individuals; and
- Require appropriate signage regarding visitation and screening and provide information to staff, patients and essential individuals of the policies and procedures in place.

A facility's policies and procedures shall remain in effect until Executive Order No. 20-10 expires or is terminated, or OHA informs the facility that the policies and procedures may be rescinded.

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please call (971) 673-0540 or TTY (711).