



## Expanded Visitation in Texas Long-term Care Facilities

Effective September 24, 2020, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is expanding opportunities for families and loved ones to visit residents in Texas long-term care facilities, while ensuring that all health and safety precautions are followed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in these facilities. Visitation opportunities vary depending on facility type and COVID status as follows:

Visitation Type	Definition	Requirements	Nursing Facility	Assisted Living Facility	Intermediate Care Facilities
Essential Caregiver	A personal, indoor visit between a resident and a designated essential caregiver with no physical distancing required. An essential caregiver can be a family member or other outside caregiver, including a friend, volunteer, private personal caregiver, or court appointed guardian, who is at least 18 years old and has been designated by the resident or legal representative to provide care to a resident.	<p>Up to two essential caregivers can be designated per resident and must be trained by a facility on personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection control.</p> <p>Prior to the visit, caregivers must have a negative COVID-19 test result performed no more than 14 days before the first visit, unless the facility performs a rapid test prior to entry into the facility.</p> <p>After being screened, caregivers will be allowed in-room, outdoor or other designated visit area, for hands-on visits, one caregiver at a time, by appointment, wearing PPE and being escorted into and out of the designated area by facility staff.</p> <p>Caregivers can visit a resident unless the resident is confirmed COVID-19 positive</p>	√	√	√

Visitation Type	Definition	Requirements	Nursing Facility	Assisted Living Facility	Intermediate Care Facilities
*Plexiglass indoor visit	This visit is between a resident and one or more personal visitors indoors, with the residents and visitors separated at all times by a plexiglass barrier.	<p>Face masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and other precautionary measures are required.</p> <p>Visitors must be screened.</p> <p>Visits must be scheduled by appointment.</p> <p>The resident must be COVID-negative to receive a visit.</p>	<b>Only allowed if the facility is in a county with COVID-19 positivity rate 10 percent or less, per federal direction.</b>	√	√
*Outdoor visit	This visit is between a resident and one or more visitors that occurs in-person in a dedicated outdoor space.	<p>Face masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and other precautionary measures are required.</p> <p>Visitors must be screened.</p> <p>Visits must be scheduled by appointment.</p> <p>The resident must be COVID-negative to receive a visit.</p>	√	√	√
*Open window	This visit is between a visitor and a resident that takes place separated by an open window.	<p>Face masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and other precautionary measures are required.</p> <p>Visitors must be screened.</p> <p>Visits must be scheduled by appointment.</p> <p>The resident must be COVID-negative to receive a visit.</p>	<b>Only allowed if the facility is in a county with COVID-19 positivity rate 10 percent or less, per federal direction.</b>	√	√

<b>Visitation Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Nursing Facility</b>	<b>Assisted Living Facility</b>	<b>Intermediate Care Facilities</b>
Closed window	This visit is between a visitor and a resident that takes place separated by a closed window.	Visitors cannot enter the building. Residents can be COVID-positive or COVID-negative.	√	√	√
*Vehicle parade	This visit is between a resident and one or more personal visitors, during which the resident remains outdoors on the facility campus, and a visitor drives by in a vehicle.	Visitors must remain in their vehicles throughout the parade.  Visits must be scheduled by appointment.  The resident must be COVID-negative to receive the visit.	√	√	√
End-of-life	This visit is between a visitor and a resident who is actively dying.	Face masks and other precautions are required. Visits must be scheduled by appointment.  Residents can be COVID-negative or COVID-positive.	√	√	√

\*Notes the types of visitation that require HHSC approval for facilities.

To learn what types of visits are currently allowed, please contact a facility directly. Additional information and a listing of approved facilities are also available on the HHS website at: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19>.