

Updated November 21, 2020

To: Long-term Care Facility (LTCF) Administration  
RE: LTCF COVID-19 Infection Control Recommendations during Holiday Celebrations

Over the last two weeks, Ventura County has experienced a significant rise in cases of COVID-19. This increase indicates a level of community spread that intensifies the threat of COVID-19 transmission to the residents of Long-term Care Facilities (LTCFs). As we enter the holiday season, [adherence](#) to the [core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention](#) must be maintained.

It is for this reason that **residents and their families are strongly discouraged from having the resident leave the LTCF for holiday celebrations**. If the family and resident feel they must leave the facility for a small holiday gathering, **the gathering should not exceed two hours**.

Additionally, the resident and family must review and abide by the following guidance:

- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Infection Control Recommendations during Holiday Celebrations](#)
- [CDPH Guidance on Private Gatherings](#)
  - *As Ventura County is in the Purple Tier, gatherings must be held outdoors. Families should plan for gatherings to occur earlier in the day when temperatures are more comfortable and there is sufficient natural light.*
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Thanksgiving & Holiday Celebrations](#)
- [CDC Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Facility Holiday Recommendations](#)
- [California Department of Social Services \(CDSS\) Preparing for a Safe Holiday Season](#)

Administrators should provide the above, hyperlinked resources to facility personnel (staff) and emphasize the importance of the facility personnel's strict compliance with these guidelines.

Facility personnel and families who plan to travel are reminded of the November 13<sup>th</sup> [CDPH Travel Advisory](#) and should not interact with a resident of a LTCF until the traveler has completed their 14-day quarantine.

As we continue our collective response to stop the spread of this coronavirus, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the LTCF community – employees, residents, and families – for the sacrifices you have made throughout the year and continue to make as we navigate through the holidays and winter season.

Robert M. Levin, MD  
Health Officer