

OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

JUNE 2, 2020

Ohio Publishes Visitation Guidance for ICFs

Earlier today, the State of Ohio released its Responsible RestartOhio guidance regarding visitation practices for Assisted Living Facilities and ICFs. OPRA is still working with DODD on additional guidance and support for ICFs and waiver providers developing or expanding their visitation protocols.



Mandatory

Facility Guidance

- Visitors should be permitted for outdoor visitation only, so long as all safety standards are met.
- Facilities should consider all implications for resident physical and mental well-being when determining when to allow facility and personal visitation decisions.
- Visitation practices should be developed that include, at a minimum, limiting visits, creating a screening process for visitors, and using sign-in sheets to track visitors.
- Providers should educate residents on the risks of the spread of COVID-19 when interacting with visitors, and the appropriate/applicable safety precautions.
- Providers must educate families, friends, and other visitors of the risks of the spread of COVID-19 and the potential health impact for not just their loved one, but all residents of the home.
- Facilities are encouraged to maintain, and in some cases enhance, virtual options to augment visitation. Examples include FaceTime, Skype, and Zoom.
- Each facility can determine how to best implement outdoor visitations for their residents in a way that works best for them.

Outdoor Visitation Best Practices

- Visits must be in accordance with the provider policy (i.e., scheduled, set hours, length of time).
- Family, friends, and other visitors should be screened with temperature taking and symptom reporting.
- Everyone should use hand sanitizer.
- Gatherings should be based on the space available to maintain social distancing, including the individual and any staff needed to assist.
- Visits must be in structured settings that are designed to encourage social distancing, and are monitored to address any misuse of wearing of masks (facial coverings) or lack of cooperation with social distancing.

Families, Friends, and Other Visitors

- Visitors must agree to have their temperatures taken, complete a health screening, and wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival.
- Masks (facial coverings) must be worn during each visit.
- Families, friends, and other visitors need to agree to minimize physical contact when possible and determined necessary by the team.
- Any visitation guidelines required by the provider to maintain the health and safety of all residents should be agreed to by all visitors.

Other Facility Types

- Visitation at other similar facilities types, including nursing homes, remains prohibited.

End-of-Life Care

- Considerations for visitors during end-of-life care has been expanded.
- Providers should notify family members several days and up to one week in advance of when a substantial change of condition has occurred and end-of-life is approaching.
- Providers should not wait until active dying to allow visitors.
- This applies to all facility types, including but not limited to, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

[The Guidance can be found online here.](#)



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OPRA Training Calendar Going Virtual

OPRA has began rescheduling training opportunities previously postponed since the onset of COVID-19. Our first training "Ongoing Training Techniques" presented by Sara Sherman is scheduled for June 22, and [you can register here.](#)

One of the biggest challenges providers face as they work to maintain regulatory compliance is to ensure staff receive continual and on-going training.

The challenge is further compounded because employees are spread across service settings, counties, have differing schedules, and often work alone.

In fact, DODD has identified lack of on-going training as key reason for citations and regulatory non-compliance.

Creativity and innovation are required in order keep staff on their toes and stay in compliance with requirements.

In this online interactive session, supervisors and leaders will learn:

- Tools and techniques to implement ongoing staff training, even across multiple and diverse service locations
- The biological barriers that make learning new information a challenge, and how to surpass those challenges
- How to create a work culture that expects and strives for compliance
- Methods to measure and track progress; and identify shortcomings for quick remediation

Cost:

\$75.00 Members

\$150.00 Non-Members

Senate Expected to Vote on House PPP Bill Soon

Last week we discussed a bill recently passed by the US House of Representatives that would add some flexibilities to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Yesterday, Senate leader Mitch McConnell announced that the Senate would take up the house version of the bill for hopeful passage "soon". [To read more about the bill and its move to the Senate, click here.](#)

OPRA COVID-19 Resource Page

OPRA's new website contains many resources to support providers navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic. [This resource page](#) contains sample visitation policies, Inventory and cleaning checklists and sample communications. A big thanks to all the members who helped compile these resources.

