



Westminster  
Village North

April 28, 2020

An ongoing response to long-term care facility guidelines:

**COVID-19 AND NURSING HOMES**

What Residents and Family Need to Know.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus. It can lead to respiratory illness with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and shortness of breath. In a growing number of cases, it can be more severe than the flu, with a higher mortality rate. Certain populations are more at risk of getting this virus, including individuals age 60 or older and people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions.

In an effort to reduce the spread of the virus in nursing homes, the federal government has:

- Focused efforts and resources only on inspections related to infection control and investigation of complaints assessed as being the most serious and harmful to residents.
- Restricted visitation of:
  - Visitors/Family members, who are only permitted in compassionate care situations, such as end of life, and only if they show no signs/symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Non-essential health care workers.
  - Long-term care ombudsmen.
- Directed facilities to actively screen residents and staff for fever and signs/symptoms of COVID-19.
- Instructed facilities to cancel communal dining and all group activities.

Residents and families can stay connected in a number of ways, including:

- Sending handwritten letters and cards.
- Using technology, such as video conferencing (Skype, FaceTime), Facebook, text message, or email.
- Making video greetings, including through apps such as WhatsApp and Marco Polo
- “Visiting” through a closed window or glass door.

See the Consumer Voice website and Facebook page for other examples of how residents and families are staying connected. Use #lovefromadistance.