

### SITUATIONAL UPDATE: LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES OPENING UP OUTDOOR VISITS TO ADDRESS SENIORS IN ISOLATION

WHILE THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS IN PHASE THREE OF THE STAY SAFE MN PLAN, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES ARE NOT ABLE TO MOVE OUT OF PHASE ZERO IN ORDER TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE.



Long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, assisted livings, and other congregate settings, have been the hardest hit by Minnesota's coronavirus outbreak.

The majority of COVID-19 related fatalities in Minnesota have been in older adults who live in long-term care facilities.

#### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT OUTDOOR AND OPEN WINDOW VISITS:

- Call Ahead for Appointment
- Visit During Visitation Hours
- Be Screened for Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19
- Sign in Upon Arrival
- Stay in Designated Visitor Location
- Wear a Mask
- Use Hand Sanitizer Before and After Visit
- Stay Outside
- Sit Six Feet Apart
- Bring a Pet
- Give Air High Fives or Air Hugs (*Please no physical hugs, hand holding, or kisses*)

***"We absolutely know social isolation and emotional disconnectedness is a major health concern in its own right. The separation that has happened for residents of long-term care facilities and their loved ones is one of the most heartbreaking things about the epidemic."***

**Commissioner Jan Malcolm,  
Minnesota Department of Health**

*(Quote Source: Pioneer Press)*

***Public Health acknowledges that these types of visits may not be enough for long-term care residents and their families, but they warn that further contact comes with inherent risks. Please respect long-term care facilities policies as they are trying to host these visits as safely as possible.***

**There may be facilities that, for the moment, have chosen to wait to offer these types of visits due to the number of COVID cases in their area. Please contact your facility to find out their specific guidelines or to ask questions.**