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March 14, 2020

To: All Long Term and Residential Care Facilities for Older Vermonters and Vermonters with Disabilities

From: Monica Caserta Hutt

Re: Governor Scott's Executive Order and Restrictions on Visitors to Facilities

Attached please find the [Executive Order](#) (EO) issued last night by Governor Phil Scott in relation to the COVID- 19 virus and measures the Administration is taking to mitigate the impact and risk the virus presents to Vermonters and particularly to our most vulnerable populations.

In the EO, the Governor lays out prohibitions and restrictions on visitors to our Nursing Homes, Residential Care Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Therapeutic Residences, in a focused effort to prevent the spread of the virus and protect our most vulnerable Vermonters.

It is important to note that the Governor's Executive Order is **more restrictive** than guidance laid out by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS). CMS has acknowledged that any state guidance more restrictive than their own must be followed and that adhering to stricter standards will not put any facility out of compliance with CMS regulations.

I encourage you to read the EO yourself but wanted to lay out a summary of the visitor restrictions for quick review:

- 1) For Nursing Homes, Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital and Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence:

Visitor Access is Prohibited

- Exemptions should be made for Medically Necessary Personnel.
- Exemptions should be made for visitors or residents receiving end-of-life care.
- All visitors should be screened in accordance with recommendations by the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health.

2) For Assisted Living Residences, Level III Residential Care Homes, and the ICF-ID in Rutland:

Visitor Access is Prohibited

- Exemptions should be made for **up to two designated visitors** for each resident.
- Exemptions should be made for Medically Necessary Personnel.
- Exemptions should be made for visitors or residents receiving end-of-life care.
- All visitors should be screened in accordance with recommendations by the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health.

3) For Therapeutic Community Residences and Level IV Residential Care Homes:

Visitor Access is Restricted

- Exemptions should be made for Medically Necessary Personnel.
- Exemptions should be made for visitors or residents receiving end-of-life care.
- All visitors should be screened in accordance with recommendations by the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health.

For your information, Governor Scott's Executive Order can be found here:

<https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/EO%2001-20%20Declaration%20of%20State%20of%20Emergency%20in%20Response%20to%20COVID-19%20and%20National%20Guard%20Call-Out.pdf>

Here is a link to watch the [Press Conference](#) from last night which contains important information and context relative to these requirements.

And a direct link to the VDH Screening Guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Visitor-Screening-Tool-Congregate-Settings.pdf>

DAIL COVID-19 page here: <https://dail.vermont.gov/novel-coronavirus-information>

Thank you for partnering with us during this challenging time and for your continued care and concern for our most vulnerable Vermonters.