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SPECIAL EDITION

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News

Medicare FFS Response to COVID-19
COVID-19 Nursing Home Visitor Guidance

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Medicare FFS Response to COVID-19

The HHS Secretary declared a public health emergency, which allows for CMS programmatic waivers based on Section 1135 of the Social Security Act. An MLN Matters Special Edition Article SE20011 on [Medicare Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Response to the Public Health Emergency on the Coronavirus](#) is available. Learn about blanket waivers issued by CMS. These waivers prevent gaps in access to care for beneficiaries impacted by the emergency.

See the [press release](#) outlining our announcement.

COVID-19 Nursing Home Visitor Guidance

On March 13, as part of the broader Trump Administration announcement, CMS announced critical new measures designed to keep America's nursing home residents safe from the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The measures take the form of a [memorandum](#) and is based on the [newest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). It directs nursing homes to significantly restrict visitors and nonessential personnel, as well as restrict communal activities inside nursing homes. The new measures are CMS's latest action to protect America's seniors, who are at highest risk for complications from COVID-19. While visitor restrictions may be difficult for residents and families, it is an important temporary measure for their protection.

For More Information:

- [Press Release](#)
- [Memo Nursing Home Guidance QSO-20-14 –NH](#)

This guidance, and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, visit the [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) webpage.

For information specific to CMS, visit the [Current Emergencies](#) website.

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