



## **DIRECTOR'S ORDER**

### **In Re: Amended Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Nursing Homes and Similar Facilities**

I, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. §§ 3701.13; 3721, to prevent the spread of contagions or infectious diseases, hereby order all "Homes," as that term is defined by R.C. § 3721.01 and to include Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, to:

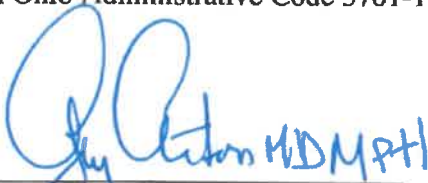
1. Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who are absolutely necessary for the operation of the Homes. People who are "absolutely necessary for the operations of the Homes" include, but may not be limited to, home staff, contracted and emergency healthcare providers, contractors conducting critical on-site maintenance, and governmental representatives and regulators and their contractors. No visitors of residents shall be admitted to any Home, except for end-of-life situations.
2. Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who have been screened for COVID-19 each time they enter Homes. Screening guidance is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as from the Ohio Department of Health. Screening should include questions about exposure to COVID-19 and assessing visitors and personnel for cough, shortness of breath, and body temperatures of 100.4 degrees and higher. This order does not apply in exigent circumstances, to emergency medical services, first responders and similarly situated individuals.
3. Restrict access to all Homes to as few points of entry as is possible, with the Ohio Department of Health recommending one (1) point of entry. This does not apply to emergency ingress or egress of facilities.
4. Restrict access to all Homes only to those persons who produce legal federal- or state-issued identification, other satisfactory identification, or are a known person, and provide the Homes with business telephone numbers and addresses. It is the responsibility of the Homes to log such information, maintaining it for at least six (6) months.
5. Allow residents to discharge from Homes at any time and in accordance with applicable state and federal law, understanding that residents that then return to the Homes while this Order is in effect are subject to the directives above.
6. Comply with infection control precautions located in Ohio Administrative Code 3701-17-11(D) and 3701-16-12(C).

The CDC reports that people are most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) however some spread might be possible before people show symptoms although that is not the main way the virus spreads.

Residents of nursing homes in the State of Ohio are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to age and underlying illnesses.

Accordingly, to avoid an imminent threat to Home residents of exposure to COVID-19, I hereby **ORDER** that Homes do all of the following:

Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who are absolutely necessary for the operation of the Homes. People who are "absolutely necessary for the operations of the Homes" include, but may not be limited to, home staff, contracted and emergency healthcare providers, contractors conducting critical on-site maintenance, and governmental representatives and regulators and their contractors. No visitors of residents shall be admitted to any Home, except for end-of-life situations. Restrict access to all Homes only to those personnel who have been screened for COVID-19 each time they enter Homes. Screening guidance is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as from the Ohio Department of Health. Screening should include questions about exposure to COVID-19 and assessing visitors and personnel for cough, shortness of breath, and body temperatures of 100.4 degrees and higher. This order does not apply in exigent circumstances, to emergency medical services, first responders and similarly situated individuals. Restrict access to all Homes to as few points of entry as is possible, with the Ohio Department of Health recommending one (1) point of entry. This does not apply to emergency ingress or egress of facilities. Restrict access to all Homes only to those persons who produce legal federal- or state-issued identification, other satisfactory identification, or are a known person, and provide the Homes with business telephone numbers and addresses. It is the responsibility of the Homes to log such information, maintaining it for at least six (6) months. Allow residents to discharge from Homes at any time and in accordance with applicable state and federal law, understanding that residents that then return to the Homes while this Order is in effect are subject to the directives above. Comply with infection control precautions located in Ohio Administrative Code 3701-17-11(D) and 3701-16-12(C).



Amy Acton, MD, MPH  
Director of Health

March 13, 2020

## Mike Montgomery's Comments to Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director's Order:

The Coronavirus Crisis has been an ever changing situation. The above is the latest Order from the Director of the Ohio Department of Health (Amy Acton, MD, MPH). Below are my comments to update you on how FCC is following every part of the ODH Director's Amended Order.

1. We have restricted access to Friends Care Community (both the Nursing Home and the Assisted Living), since last week.
  - a. First we limited visitors from 7 AM to 7 PM. That lasted one day.
  - b. Then we restricted all visitors unless their loved one was receiving Hospice Services.
  - c. Then on March 13, we restricted ALL visitors with the only exception being to allow a visitor during end-of-life situations.
2. We screen every person that enters FCC (both the Nursing Home and the Assisted Living), as per the CDC screening guidelines. This includes barring some staff to work and enter FCC because they have been on a cruise or have been out of the state.
3. We have limited the access into FCC (Nursing Home), to the front door and a rear door for staff only. The only access to the Assisted Living is through the front door of the AL building. Both of these doors are locked and anyone who wants access will need to ring the doorbell.
4. Ohio Department of Health, CDC, Fire Marshall and all others who produce legal federal and state identification will still have access to FCC and our residents.
5. Our residents have NOT lost any of their rights. Residents are still allowed to discharge from FCC if they choose to do so.
6. We always had a very strong infection control policy and procedure in place. Now, because of the Coronavirus Crisis, our infection control precautions are even more stringent than ever before.