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## **Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention**

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status)
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask *(covering mouth and nose)* and social distancing at least six feet between persons, *in accordance with CDC guidance*
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID- 19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH Revised)

These core principles are consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for nursing homes, and should be **adhered to at all times**. Additionally, visitation should be personcentered, consider the residents' physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life. The risk of transmission can be further reduced through the use of physical barriers (e.g., clear Plexiglass dividers, curtains). Also, nursing homes should enable visits to be conducted with an adequate degree of privacy. *Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention should not be permitted to visit or should be asked to leave.* By following a person-centered approach and adhering to these core principles, visitation can occur safely based on the below guidance.

Ref: QSO-20-39-NH REVISED 04/27/2021