



# Resident and Family Support Council

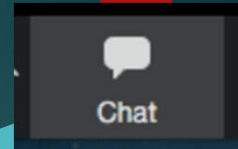
3-20-2021



# Welcome

LEE MORIARTY  
DEPUTY STATE OMBUDSMAN

## Use the Chat box to ask questions and make comments



- ▶ Chat box will be opened for 10 minutes after the call in case you didn't get a chance to ask your question. We will address these at the start of our next meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ There is a link to the Regional Ombudsman throughout the state in the chat box in case you have a specific question that you would like their assistance with or you can type your county in the Chat box and we will give you the number of the Ombudsman in your area.

## We are recording today's meeting

You can find the recording at:

- ▶ The Illinois Department on Aging's website under the Ombudsman tab
- ▶ On Facebook:
  - ▶ IL Pioneer Coalition
  - ▶ IL Caregivers for Compromise
  - ▶ IL Department on Aging



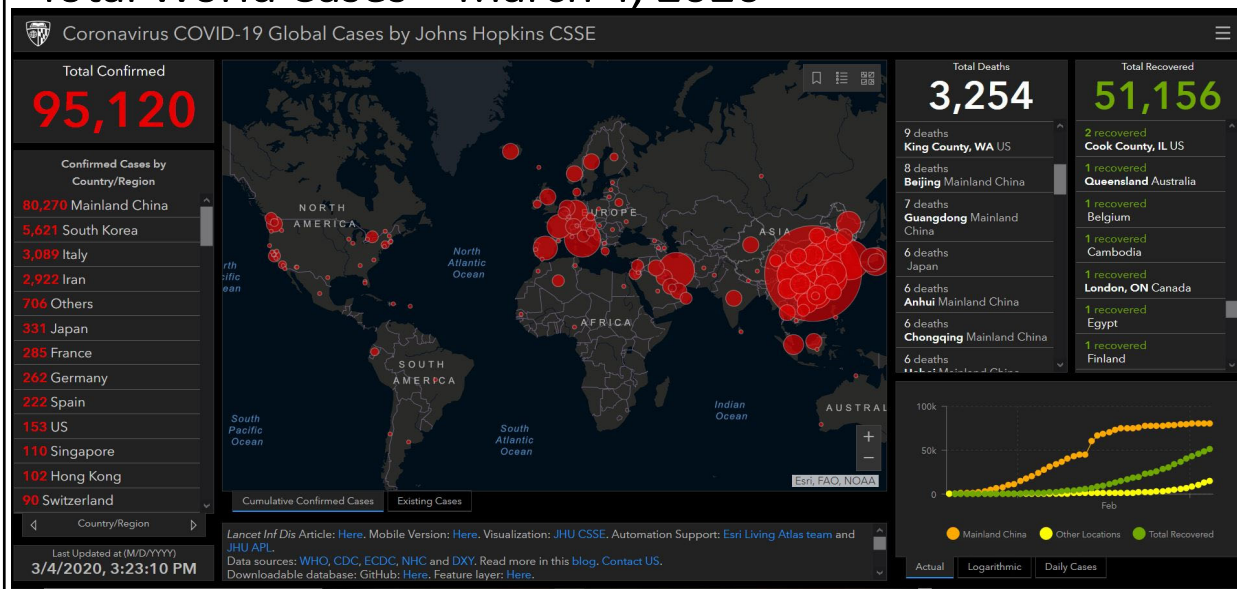
## Minimizing The Risks of Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

Dr. Deb Burdsall

Dr. Catherine Counard

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Total World Cases – March 4, 2020

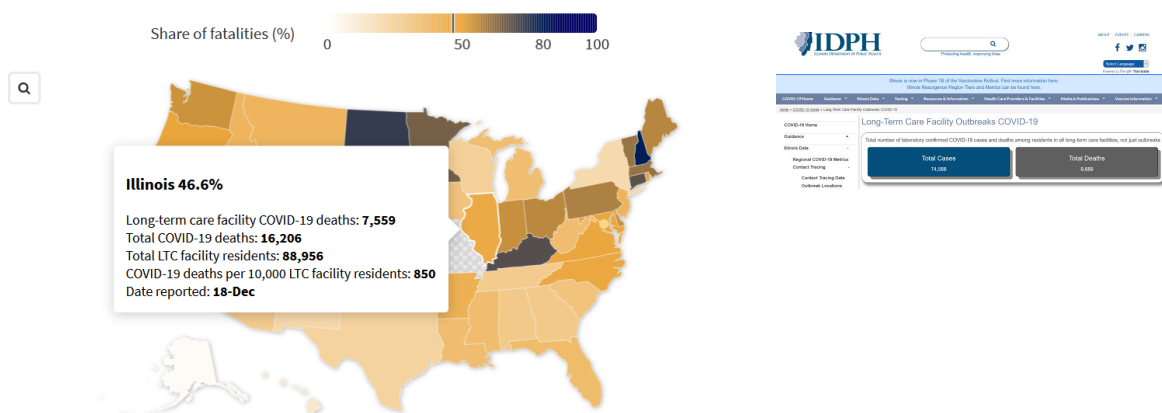


# Total World Cases – March 28, 2021



## 38% of U.S. COVID-19 Deaths Occur in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities

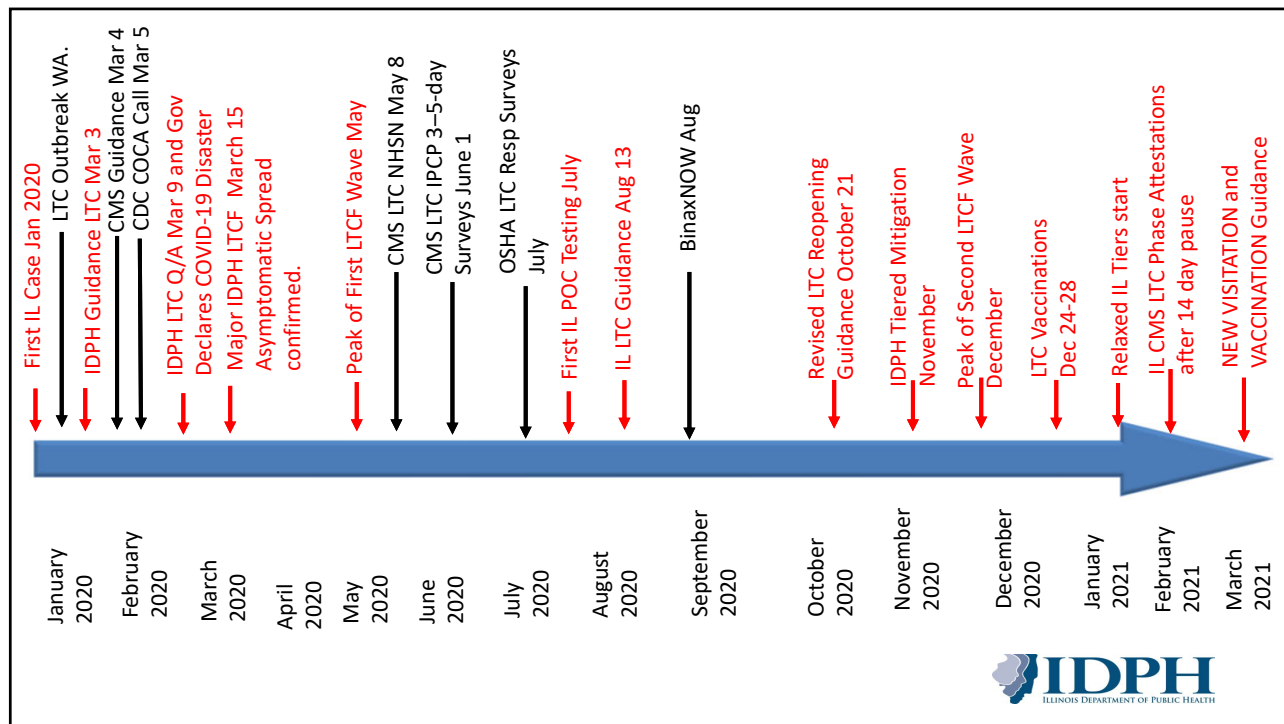
(Cmd/ctrl + scroll or two fingers to zoom & pan)



Source: The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity  
 Gregg Girvan & Avik Roy • As of December 20, 2020

FREOPP.org

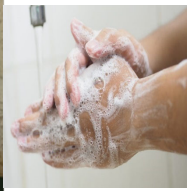
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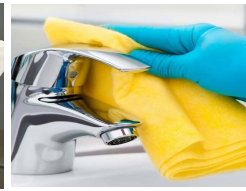
## Infection Prevention Practices



Hand Hygiene



Use of PPE



Cleaning/Disinfection

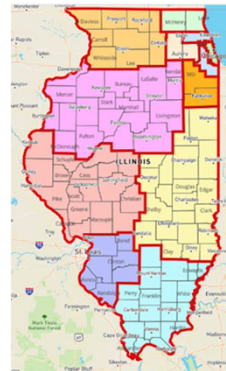


Detection, Isolation and Cohorting



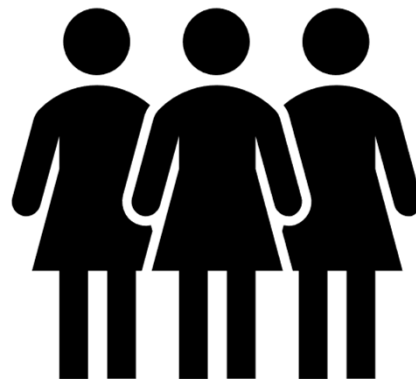
## Core Principles of Infection Prevention

- VACCINATION
- Hand Hygiene
- Face Covering / Mask
- Physical Distancing of 6 feet
- Testing
- Screening
- Education
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Proper Use of PPE
- Cohorting
- Outdoor Visits Preferred

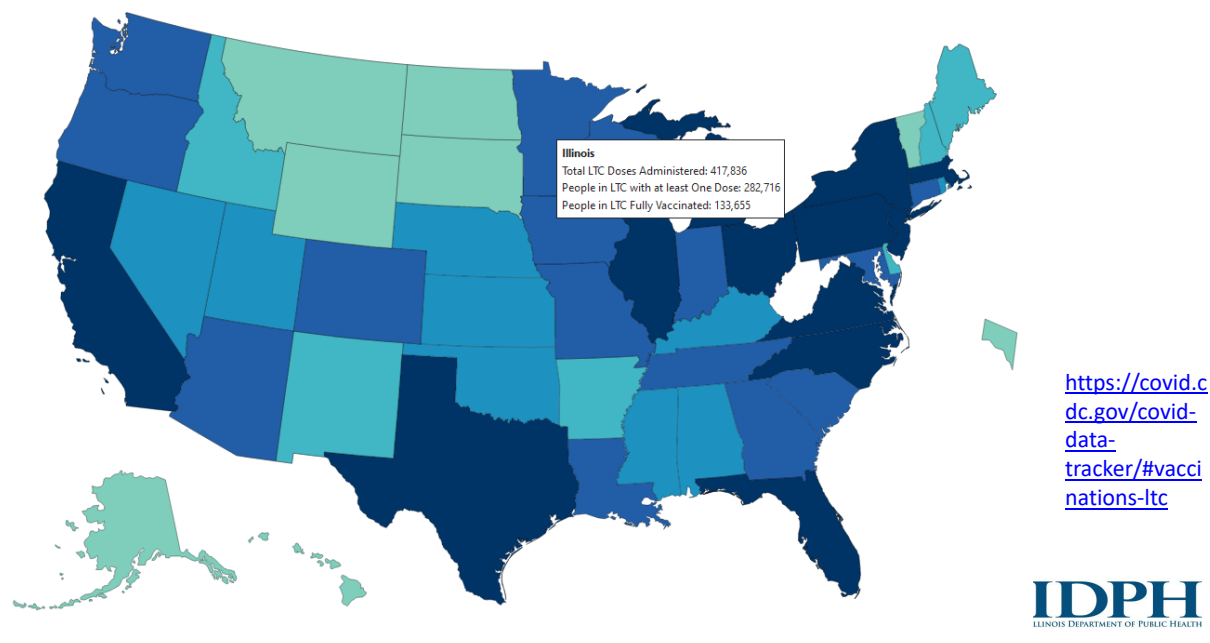


## Higher Risk Exposure

- Exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Longer than 15 minutes in 24 hours
- Closer than 6 feet
- No masks or appropriate PPE



## Federal Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program – CDC Data Tracker



## CDC LTC Pharmacy Partnership Program for COVID-19 Vaccination

### Program Description

- HHS/CDC partnered with CVS, PharmScript and Walgreens to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for staff and residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- 3 COVID-19 vaccination clinics offered at each facility
- 1600 Illinois LTC facilities enrolled in program (99% of LTC in Illinois)
- Began week of December 28, 2020
- Skilled Nursing Facilities were 1<sup>st</sup> – highest risk of severe illness and death

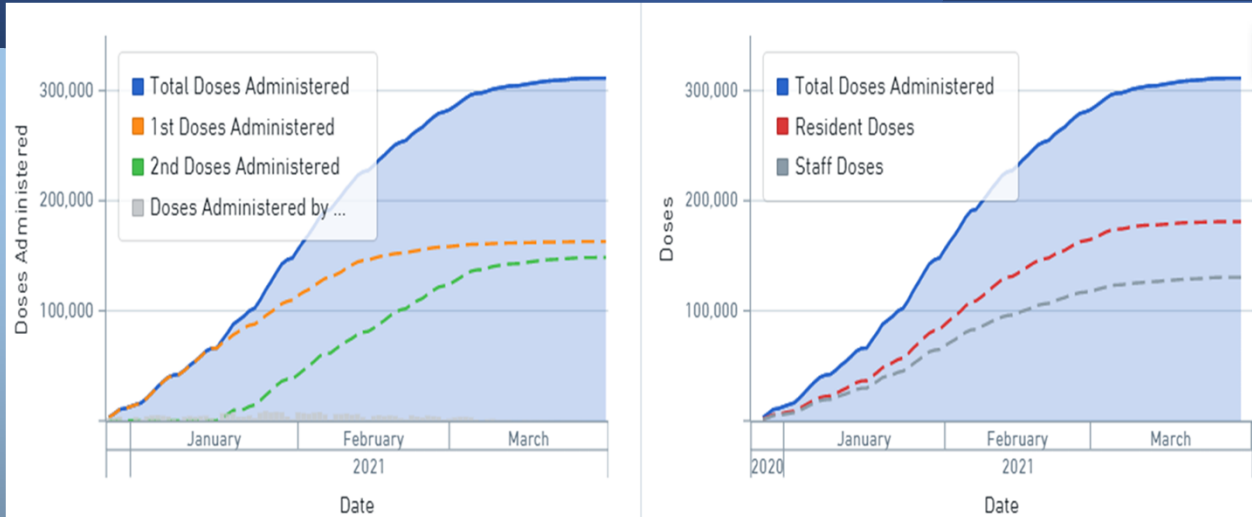
### Progress to date –

- January 25 – all SNFs had 1st vaccinations
- February 15 – all ALFs and other LTC had 1st vaccinations
- All 2nd clinics finished by 2nd week of March, program ends at end of March

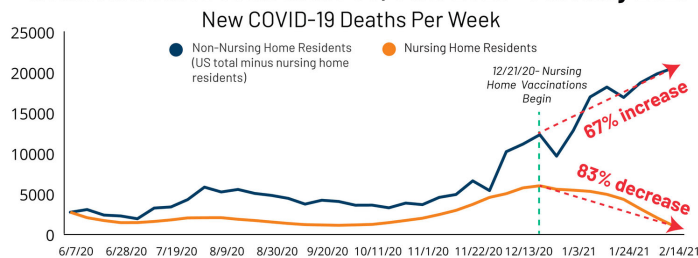




## LTC Pharmacy Partnership Program Doses Administered March 30, 2021 – OWS Tiberius Data – Outside of Chicago



## Weekly COVID-19 Nursing Home Resident and Non-Nursing Home Resident Deaths in the US, June 2020 – February 2021



NOTES: Nursing home deaths include resident deaths only. Non-nursing home resident deaths calculated as total US deaths minus nursing home resident deaths. Nursing home staff deaths are included in "Non-nursing home resident" values.  
 SOURCES: Nursing home resident deaths are from CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data, as of the week ending on 2/14/2021. US weekly deaths data is based on analysis of COVID Tracking Project data.

### With Rise in Vaccinations, Covid Cases Plunge

Since late December, when vaccinations began, new weekly positive covid test results among nursing home residents and staff members have fallen by 89% and 83%, respectively.

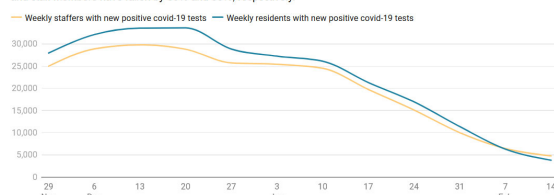


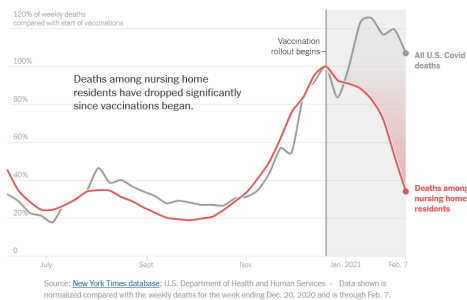
Chart: Hannah Norman/KHN - Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Embed

## Vaccine Effectiveness

### Nursing Homes, Once Hotspots, Far Outpace U.S. in Covid Declines

By Matthew Conlen, Sarah Mervosh and Danielle Ivory Feb. 25, 2021

KFF



Source: New York Times database; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Data shown is normalized compared with the weekly deaths for the week ending Dec. 20, 2020 and is through Feb. 7.

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## Ombudsman, Essential Caregiver, Compassionate Care, or Visitor?

### ***Ombudsman / Surveyor / Public Health***

- Essential
- Unannounced and announced visits
- **Treated as Staff**
- Routine testing and screening
- Vaccination preferred but not required

### ***Essential Caregiver***

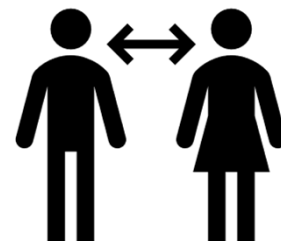
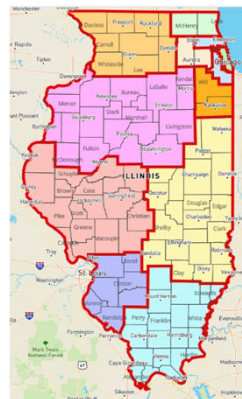
- Scheduled
- Provide necessary support to resident for the resident or POA
- **Treated as Staff**
- Routine testing and screening
- Vaccination preferred but not required

### ***Compassionate Care***

- Scheduled
- Compassionate care situations do not exclusively refer to end-of-life situations
- Visitor or Essential Caregiver
- Screening each visit
- Testing a possibility
- Vaccination preferred but not required

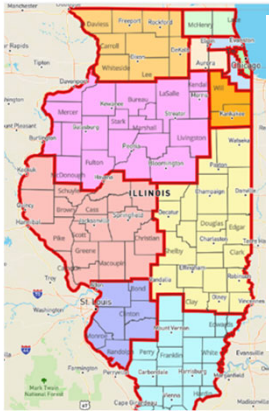
### ***Visitor***

- Scheduled
- Outdoor preferred
- Screening prior to and at each visit
- Testing a possibility
- Vaccination preferred but not required



## Outbreak and Visitation

Increased Rates and Visitation Restriction: Follow Core Principles of Infection Prevention!



Mitigation	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Visitation	Suspend indoor visits. Continue outdoor visits.	Same as Tier 1	Suspend all visits except for EC or compassionate care.
Communal Dining	Continue	Continue	Suspend
Group Activities	Continue without outside leaders or off-site outings.	Same as Tier 1, plus limit to 10 participants.	Suspend
Barber and Beauty Shop	Suspend	Suspend	Suspend

## Questions

Thank you for your support  
[DPH.LTCreopening@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.LTCreopening@illinois.gov)

**Family member contacted both CDC & CMS and they both have said that there are no age limits for children visiting in LTCF and that guidance is up to the local facilities. Local facilities are imposing age limits that vary widely from facility to facility. Some facilities limit visitation to 17 and older and others are 12 and older. What can we do to advocate for grandchildren who don't meet these age limits to be able to see their grandparents?**

**This may be a facility policy. Suggest discussion about outdoor visitation which is always preferred.**



**Facility does not have a written visitation policy. Are all long-term care facility types required to have a written policy? Currently, the facility does not allow indoor and outdoor visits because of the County's positivity rate.**

**CMS requires SNF/ICF to have written visitation policies. We will follow up with OHCR to see if other types of congregate care have the same requirements.**



**Resident resides in a supportive living center which now allows 30 minute visits in her apartment and have to be planned 24 hours in advance Monday thru Friday. If family doesn't call on Friday to visit Saturday or Sunday, family still can't visit.**

**Planning of visitation is allowed. Work with the supportive living center to schedule.**



**When will assisted living facilities allow vaccinated residents to sit together to eat or participate in group activities? Do guidelines still say they need to be seated 6 feet apart?**

**Yes, 6 foot separation and face coverings are still part of the Core Principles of Infection Prevention.**



**Resident is in a room that does not allow window visits due to its location. The facility has not made accommodations for visits due to the inaccessible window. Is the facility required to do so?**

- SNF/ICF? Per CMS, “Facilities should allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission (note: compassionate care visits should be permitted at all times). These scenarios include limiting indoor visitation for:
  - Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home’s COVID-19 county positivity rate is >10% and <70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
  - Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions; or
  - Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.”



**Resident’s facility claims to provide restorative care; however, my relative has told me this is not happening. What can I do?**

- Discuss with Restorative Nurse and people managing the Restorative Program at the facility.



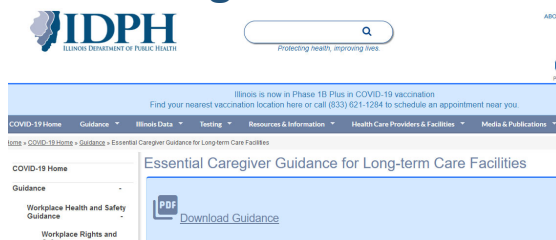
**If a relative needs assistance with restorative care, eating, and drinking, can a facility deny essential care giver status because it has staff members who provide this function?**

**Restorative care is very specific and would need to be completed within the context of the Restorative Program with the Activities, Work Programs, Restorative Nurse and Restorative Aides who provide this service.**

**An Essential Caregiver could also provide assistance but it would not be counted toward the Restorative Program.**



**There has been much inconsistency in definition and qualification and acceptance of an "essential caregiver" in many facilities, both SNF (Medicare/Medicaid overseen and funded) vs. AL (state only guided/licensed facilities). Much has been up to facility discretion. Where do we go from here as families?**



<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/essential-caregiver-guidance-long-term-care-facilities>



**As an essential caregiver the facility is not allowing family members to do any ADL care for their loved one. What can be done about this?**

**Were the family members providing ADL assistance before or does the resident have new needs? If so, work with facility. They may ask for return demonstration or may require you to sign a release of liability.**



**What is the best way to address facilities who are balking at compassionate care visits or essential care visits? What would be the complaint procedures?**

- **Compassionate Care visits are required. Work with the facility for Essential Caregivers.**





**Are there guidelines for a vaccinated resident leaving an assisted living facility for personal reasons? Is there anything about quarantine when they return?**

- Fully vaccinated inpatients and residents are not required to quarantine.
- Residents within 90 days of confirmed COVID-19 infection do not need to quarantine



**Will residents be able to leave SNF for a family meal for a period? Please answer for both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents.**

- “Unvaccinated residents should be observed and monitored closely for development of symptoms during the following 14-day period following the outing. Decisions on whether to place such residents into transmission-based precautions, should be made by assessing the potential for exposure while away using the IDPH Risk Assessment:
- [http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19 LTC FacilityRiskAssessment.pdf](http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_LTC_FacilityRiskAssessment.pdf)
- Fully vaccinated inpatients and residents are not required to quarantine.
- Residents within 90 days of confirmed COVID-19 infection do not need to quarantine”



**What about overnight visits, are these allowed? Please answer for both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents.**

- Unvaccinated residents that spend overnight out of building should be placed in transmission-based precautions for 14 days.
- Fully vaccinated inpatients and residents are not required to quarantine.
- Residents within 90 days of confirmed COVID-19 infection do not need to quarantine.



**Does a facility have the authority to make rules about visitation that are more strict than the state or local health department? If so, what about resident rights?**

- The facility needs to follow local, state, and federal (if applicable) guidance.

The major principles are that the wellbeing and safety of the resident are the major concerns, not the convenience of the facility.



# Thank you!

## Thank you for being a part of this today!

- ▶ The chat box will remain open for an additional 10 minutes after this call
- ▶ Remember, questions that we can not get to will be answered at the beginning of our next meeting
- ▶ If you need assistance, reach out to your Regional Ombudsman; contact information was shared at the beginning of the chat or email:  
[AGING.SLTCOProgram@Illinois.gov](mailto:AGING.SLTCOProgram@Illinois.gov)

Next meetings:

- ▶ 4/13, 3pm, Topic TBD
- ▶ 4/27, 3pm, Topic TBD

*Thank you to the Illinois Pioneer  
Coalition for helping to sponsor the  
Resident and Family Support  
Council!*

