# Frequently Asked Questions: Long Term Care & COVID-19

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**This week’s call included a presentation by Sarah Slocum, Co-Director, Center for Appropriate Care, Program to Improve Eldercare at ALTARUM. ALTARUM surveyed residents of nursing homes to evaluate the impact of the isolation during COVID-19. Click on the link below for an overview of the report and for a link to the entire report.**

<https://altarum.org/news/survey-nursing-home-residents-reveals-deep-emotional-toll-social-isolation-under-covid-19>

**We also discussed the newly released MDHHS Epidemic Order related to visitation in long term care settings. The highlights of the new order include:**

1. Independent Living settings are excluded from the order and therefore from the restrictions.
2. Indoor visits are allowed based on the county risk level and require infection control precautions like screening, hand hygiene and PPE.
3. A resident receiving a visitor under the End of Life exception may now have physical contact with the visitor but for no more than 15 minutes. Appropriate PPE and other infection control precautions are required.
4. A resident receiving a visitor under the ADL exception may now have physical contact with the visitor but for no more than 15 minutes. Appropriate PPE and other infection control precautions are required.
5. When a provider denies a hospice/end of life visit or an ADL support visit, the provider must give notice to the denied visitor and give a copy of the notice to MDHHS and the Michigan LTC Ombudsman Program.
6. Residents may participate in communal dining and group activities consistent with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidance included in [QSO-20-39-NH](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh.pdf)(issued on September 17, 2020).
7. This order is effective on October 26, 2020 and remains in effect until rescinded.

MDHHS Epidemic Order: [Oct. 21 Requirements for Residential Care Facilities](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-542860--,00.html)

* [Oct. 21 Epidemic Order Infographic](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Visitation_Order_Oct._21_Infographic_705630_7.pdf)
* [Oct. 21 Epidemic Order Special Cases Grid](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Visitation_Order_Oct_21_Special_Cases_Grid_705631_7.pdf)
* [County Risk Levels](https://mistartmap.info/county_risk_levels)