

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

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**This week's call included a recap of the new Epidemic Order for visitation in residential care settings and opportunities to advocate for visitation changes imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

### **Epidemic Order March 2, 2021 Requirements for Residential Care Facilities Rescission of December 8, 2020**

The new Epidemic Order requires visitation in long term care settings be allowed based on rapid antigen testing results and not based on the county risk level as in previous orders. [March 2, 2021 Epidemic Order for Visitation](#)

These infographics for the new Epidemic Order are helpful in understanding the visitation requirements.

[Visitation Order Special Cases](#)

[Visitation Order Infographic](#)

MDHHS released an FAQ on visitation and testing related to the March 2 Epidemic Order: [MDHHS LTC Testing and Visitation FAQ](#)

Testing: The State of Michigan [website](#) has COVID 19 testing information including a link to find a testing site. You can also call the COVID Hotline at 888-535-6136, press 1.

If you believe the home meets the criteria to allow visits and you are denied a visit, please reach out to the LTC Ombudsman Program for assistance by calling 866-485-9393 or email [MLTCOP@meji.org](mailto:MLTCOP@meji.org)

## **Advocacy Opportunities**

Many participants in our weekly calls have asked how they can advocate for residents to receive visitors. Following are a few suggestions that may be of interest to our listeners.

**The National Consumer Voice (CV)** is the leading national voice representing consumers in issues related to long-term care, helping to ensure that consumers are empowered to advocate for themselves. They provide information and tools to help ensure quality care for the individual. For more information, visit: <https://theconsumervoice.org/issues/other-issues-and-resources/covid-19/open-doors>

[Register to Attend](#) the March 12<sup>th</sup> Consumer Voice **Life the Lockdown virtual rally** commemorating the one year anniversary of the nursing home visitation ban. The rally will honor residents who have died and provide an opportunity to hear directly from residents and family members about their experiences during the lockdown. For more information, please click on this link: <https://theconsumervoice.org/events/rally-to-lift-the-lockdown>

The **Essential Caregivers Coalition** is a national advocacy group dedicated to the establishment of an essential caregiver in order to prevent long term care residents from suffering due to the effects of social isolation. For more information, please click on: <https://www.essentialcaregiverscoalition.org/>

**Caregivers for Compromise** is a coalition of leadership from across the United States who are working toward alternative solutions to the isolation of long term care residents as a response to COVID-19. The Michigan group has a Facebook page for families and residents to join and participate in advocacy efforts: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/michigancaregivers/>