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State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

March 11, 2020

Name of facility

Address

This letter serves as an approval to waive specified components of the patients' rights requirements related to visitation. Specifically, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is authorizing a temporary waiver for Title 22 section [72527](#) (a) (19) To have visits from members of the clergy at any time at the request of the patient or the patient's representative.

(20) To have visits from persons of the patient's choosing at any time if the patient is critically ill, unless medically contraindicated.

Pursuant to the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency related to COVID-19, the Director of CDPH may waive any of the licensing requirements of Chapter 2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code and accompanying regulations with respect to any hospital or health facility identified in Health and Safety Code section 1250. CDPH is authorizing a statewide waiver for long-term care (LTC) facilities to modify their visitation policies in accordance with CMS guidelines when necessary to protect the health and safety of LTC residents, staff, and the public.

This approval is based on the facility's compliance with the following terms and conditions:

1. The facility's revised visitation policy shall be developed in compliance with the most recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 guidance.
2. This approval letter shall be posted in a public location within the facility along with the facility's revised visitation policy.
3. The facility shall comply with directives of the local public health officer.
4. In lieu of visits (either through limiting or discouraging), facilities shall consider alternate means of communication for visitors as described in CMS or CDC guidance.
5. The facility shall not restrict CDPH surveyors from entering or conducting investigations at the facility.

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The Department may terminate the waiver if it determines the facility does not meet the terms of the waiver.

This approval is valid until **6/1/2020** and may be extended depending on any future guidance from CMS and the CDC to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Heidi W. Steinecker

Heidi W. Steinecker
Deputy Director