



March 23, 2020

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Guidance for Senior Living Communities (Independent Living)

For the health and safety of residents and staff at senior living communities (independent living) the Florida Department of Health and the Agency for Health Care Administration are issuing guidance related to COVID-19.

- All communal activities should cease immediately. This includes discontinuing communal dining and postponing all community events until further notice.
- In any other circumstance where residents may come into contact with one another, social distancing will be required to reduce the potential spread of possible COVID-19.
- Restrict any community outings; delivery services can be utilized in a safe manner when necessary. **If a resident leaves their senior living campus, they will be putting themselves as well as fellow residents and staff at risk.**

All independent living communities should screen necessary visitors (i.e. a family member who may aid with activities of daily living) or vendors and restrict access for:

- Any person infected with COVID-19 who has not had two consecutive negative test results separated by 24 hours;
- Any person showing, presenting signs or symptoms of, disclosing the presence of a respiratory infection, including, cough, fever, shortness of breath, or sore throat;
- Any person who has been in contact with any person(s) known to be infected with COVID-19, or a close contact of someone known to be infected with COVID-19 within the past 14 days;
- Any person who traveled through any airport within the past 14 days; facility staff are exempt from the 14-day air travel prohibition if the individual does not meet any of the other screening criteria. The facility must still follow requirements listed here: https://ahca.myflorida.com/docs/Emergency_Order_Visitation_Limits_at_Residential_Skilled_Nursing_and_Long-term_Care_Facilities.pdf?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ESS&utm_content=ESS_In_depliv_03.21.2020
- Any person who traveled on a cruise ship within the last 14 days.

Staff should have their temperatures taken throughout the workday. If a staff member presents any symptoms of illness, they should be sent home immediately. Additionally, staff should use facial masks while interacting with residents.

The CDC also released interim guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in retirement communities and independent living facilities. To read that guidance, visit the link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/retirement/guidance-retirement-response.html>