



CITY OF GARLAND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

Applies To: Long-Term Care Facilities

From: C. Tim Lambert, M.D., Health Authority for Garland, Rowlett and Sachse

Date: March 12, 2020

Regarding: Guidance for Limiting the Transmission of COVID-19 for Long-Term Care Facilities

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) critically affects older adults (65 years and older) and persons with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems. This population is at significantly greater risk for severe illness from this virus.

Due to the vulnerability of residents in long-term care facilities, it is of utmost importance to limit possible exposure to COVID-19. Long-term care facilities include nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, and any other facility that provides long-term medical or personal care for high-risk populations.

Dr. Tim Lambert, Health Authority for the cities of Garland, Rowlett and Sachse, hereby orders that all long-term care facilities shall screen all visitors and employees as described below. All long-term care facilities shall restrict entry for visitors meeting any one of the screening criteria. Facilities should restrict work for any employee meeting any one of the screening criteria.

Screening Criteria.

1. Facility staff must question all visitors regarding international travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained transmission of COVID-19. For updated information on countries restricted due to sustained COVID-19 transmission visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.
2. Facility staff must question visitors if they have had contact with someone known to be infected with or, under investigation for, COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
3. Facility staff must screen for signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and fever by measuring their temperature. Temperature may not exceed 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit for any visitor entering the facility. For employees, temperature screening shall be done prior to every shift.

For further guidance, please reference CMS Ref: QSO-20-14-NH Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in nursing homes.

Please understand that this Health Advisory is designed to protect your residents. If the provisions cause undue difficulties to your facility, please call Ashton Tassin, Epidemiologist, or Jason Chessher, Health Director with the Garland Health Department at 972-205-3370.

For additional information, see the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Texas Department of State Health Services websites at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> and <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.