



1600 Veterans Drive
Lisbon, ND 58054
701-683-6500

June 11, 2020

Family Members,

We hope you are all doing well. This update has new information that we are pleased to share with you.

Outdoor Visits

We are excited to share that Governor Burgum has announced that we can begin scheduled outdoor visitations for residents and their loved ones. If you are interested in scheduling an outdoor visit with your family member, please read the [attached guideline on outdoor visitation](#).

When will we re-open?

Initially, all facilities will have to undergo a minimum of two rounds of testing among both residents and staff with a 90% compliance rate in order to meet gating criteria for entrance into the three reopening phases. We will keep you updated as to what process of the phase we are in. This process and plan are new to all involved, we remain hopeful that we can get back to a sense of normalcy.

2nd Testing Date Set

Our second round of group testing will be held on Friday, June 12th for residents and staff. You will be contacted if your loved one is suspected to have or diagnosed with COVID-19.

Safety Plan

The safety and well-being of our residents is our top priority. We are doing what we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the North Dakota Veterans Home, including staying in very close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps under current circumstances.

We are taking steps based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for expanded list of symptoms
- Restricting visitation and entry of people to the building
- Testing staff and residents for COVID-19 based on current protocols and availability of tests
- Increasing number of medical appointments done via telehealth
- Postponing communal activities

Helpful Links:

- To learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community visit:
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#)
- You can find information and updates on our website COVID-19 tab: [NDVH COVID -19 Updates](#)
- The ND Department of Health website can be used as a guide regarding positive results for long-term care facilities; results can be found by scrolling down on this link.: [North Dakota Department of Health COVID-19 Cases](#)

We encourage you to call us at 701-683-6500 for updates on the status of your loved one. We are in this together.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Johnson
Administrator
701-683-6501

Wanda Cavett
Director of Nursing
701-683-6515

Kelly Lyons
Infection Control, CCP
701-683-6585

Kristin Lunneborg
CFO
701-683-6503

Jann Neameyer
Director of Social Services
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701-683-6534

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | June 5, 2020

Burgum announces phased approach to resuming visitation at long-term care facilities

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Doug Burgum today signed an [executive order](#) that modifies restrictions on visitation at long-term care facilities in North Dakota during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing for a phased approach to resuming visitation as outlined in the state’s Vulnerable Population Protection (VP3) Plan.

Visitation to skilled nursing, basic care and assisted living facilities was suspended by executive order on April 6. The amended order signed today allows for a phased approach to resuming visitation, based on the prevalence of COVID-19 in the county and the number of active COVID-19 cases among residents of the facility.

Starting immediately, the state is strongly encouraging outdoor visitation by appointment, with appropriate social distancing and personal protective equipment, including masks. Family members should work with their loved one’s long-term care facility on appointments and details.

More than 40 long-term care facilities have been approved to begin Phase 1 under the VP3 plan, meaning they can reinstitute group dining and activities such as bingo. In 14 days, if they undergo another round of testing and there are no new active positives, they can begin indoor visitation.

“We know the stress and strain of isolation is real. We are completely and totally committed to making sure that we can reconnect people with their loves ones and to protecting all of those individuals in congregate care,” Burgum said during today’s press briefing, while also encouraging those planning visits to first get tested for COVID-19.

Burgum noted the phased resumption of visitation wouldn't be possible without the state's strong COVID-19 testing efforts. North Dakota currently ranks fourth in the nation in per-capita testing rate.

Garth Rydland, president and CEO of Grand Forks-based Valley Senior Living, a long-term care organization of 550 residents and over 800 employees, said aggressive testing will lead to a smart restart of long-term care and eventually allow for the reuniting of residents and their families.

"Testing all long-term care residents has saved lives and it will continue to save lives in North Dakota," Rydland said. "While the pandemic is proving to be the most challenging thing we will ever face in our lifetimes in long-term care, I wake up every day thankful to be in North Dakota."

For more information on North Dakota's COVID-19 response, visit www.health.nd.gov/coronavirus or www.ndresponse.gov.



Outdoor Visits

In relation to the Governor's News Release, we are so excited for all of you to be able to start visiting outdoors with your loved ones. We want to be able to continue with slowly opening- up the facility but in order to do this we need to keep the residents healthy. We need your help to do this and are asking that you follow the below guidelines.

Guidelines to Follow for Outdoor Visits:

- Visit must be scheduled through your residents Case Manager in advance (numbers are listed below). The time frames will be Monday-Friday from 12-5 with some evening and weekend hours as availability allows.
- All family visits will take place only at time scheduled in the Main Courtyard. There are places to park in back by the courtyard. No visitors will be able to come in through the building.
- No more than 4 visitors will be allowed to spend time with resident at one time.
- Visits will need to be 2 hours or less, to allow adequate time for cleaning and enough time for everyone to enjoy time with loved ones.
- All visitors will be screened by a staff person at the time of visit. Do not visit if you have any of the following symptoms.
 - Fever
 - Sore throat
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Muscle Aches
 - Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
 - Headache
- **Screening still needs to be followed, masks need to be worn by resident and guests and social distancing met.**
- Only visitors that are able to follow the below guidelines will be allowed to visit (if children can't follow this they are unable to visit):
 - Willing to complete a screening with staff.
 - No more than 4 visitors.
 - Must wear a clean mask throughout visit.
 - Social distancing of 6 feet from resident must be maintained throughout visit. This means no touching including hugs, kisses etc.
 - Proper Hand hygiene: Washing your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

Numbers for Case Managers to call to Arrange Time to Visit:

Ashley Olson
701-683-6530

Harlee Hesse
707-683-6532

LeAnn Fix
701-683-6531

Jann Neameyer
701-683-6534

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