



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

**COVID 19: DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
VISITATION ORDER**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont (the Governor), in response to the global pandemic of 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State of Connecticut pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to remain in effect through September 9, 2020, unless sooner terminated by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Governor, in furtherance of the authority granted by virtue of such emergency declaration, issued Executive Order 7C to address critical issues regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, said Executive Order provides that for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies, or until such time as the Governor repeals or modifies Executive Order 7C, notwithstanding Section 17a-238 of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other statute, regulation, local rule or ordinance or provision of law, the Commissioners of the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Public Health are authorized to issue any and all orders restricting entrance into facilities, as reference in Section 17a-231(1), the Southbury Training School and any other facility operated by the Department of Developmental Services that the Commissioners deem necessary to protect the health and welfare of patient, residents and staff.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Executive Order No. 7C, and in response to the ongoing public health crisis arising out of COVID-19, especially among people over the age of 60 and people with co-morbid conditions, I hereby **ORDER**:

Effective immediately, all residential facilities for persons with intellectual disability, as defined in Connecticut General Statute Section 17a-231(1), and facilities operated by the Department of Developmental Services shall impose a complete ban on all visitors to such facilities for a period of THIRTY (30) DAYS commencing on the date of this order, unless terminated earlier by virtue of a future order.

Except that, a facility or setting shall continue to provide reasonable access to:

1. First responders, including Emergency Medical Services, law enforcement, firefighting and Emergency Management personnel;

2. Family members, domestic partners or other persons designated by an individual only when the facility's Medical Director, a licensed physician or advance practice registered nurse has determined such patient to be at the end stage of life with death being imminent;
3. Any person authorized by law to investigate the provision of care and services; and
4. Service providers who are required to do maintenance or repair necessary without delay for the facility's continued operation.

In all instances where visitors are permitted entry to a facility as enumerated above, such visitors shall only be permitted into the facility after facility personnel have performed a risk screening of each such visitor for COVID-19, and with the use of appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in accordance with CDC guidance, if necessary and available.

The risk screening to be performed shall include, but not be limited to, recent travel history, contact with a person presumed or confirmed positive for COVID-19, fever of 100 degrees or greater, sneezing, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath and recent travel by airplane. The facility shall ban entrance to any visitor who confirms the existence of any of the utilized screening conditions or who the facility determines meets one of such criteria.

Except as provided herein, nothing in this order shall suspend or modify the provisions of Sec. 17a-238 et seq. of the Connecticut General Statutes, providing the rights of persons under the supervision of the Commissioner of Developmental Services to communicate freely and privately with any person.

The restrictions imposed herein shall be modified as circumstances warrant but shall, in no event, continue beyond September 9, 2020.

ORDERED this 17th day of March, 2020

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner