

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

## BLAST FAX 2020-103B

TO: Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: Acting Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deidre S. Gifford".

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA  
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner  
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch  
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: December 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Nursing Home Visitation and Request for Civil Money Penalties (CMPs)

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On September 17, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released QSO Memo 20-39, (<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh.pdf>) which provided guidance for visitation and the use of CMP's to aid in visitation. Facilities may request CMP funds to assist with the acquisition tents to promote outdoor visitation and/or clear dividers to create a physical barrier to reduce the risk of transmission during indoor visits. As a cautionary reminder, please be mindful of compliance with life safety code requirements found at 42 CFR 483.90, unless waived under the Public Health Emergency declaration.

CMS has recently updated the guidance regarding the request for CMP's to support visitation aids. Please be advised that the following items have been removed from the list of items prohibited for inclusion in applications:

- Outdoor furniture;
- Portable heating units;
- Lighting Systems; and
- Infrared temperature scanners.



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