TO: All Nursing Homes, Nursing Home Care Partners  
All Managed Residential Communities  
All Assisted Living Services Agencies

FROM: Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD

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

DATE: April 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Essential Care Giver Policies

Public Act 21-71 An Act Concerning Essential Support Persons And A State-Wide Visitation Policy For Residents Of Long-term Care Facilities required the Department to establish a state-wide policy for visitation within a long-term care facility as prescribed in this act as a nursing home, managed residential community, and assisted living services agency. The policy regarding visitation requires the Department to incorporate the resident’s need for health, safety, and well-being along with including primary and secondary essential support persons.

Attached please find the Department’s guidance regarding the rights of the resident to visitation including the ability to elect a primary and secondary essential support person. The Department requests all facilities develop or revise current visitation policies by or before April 30, 2022, to include the requirements in the Department’s guidance.