

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### 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 13, 2020, the Governor, in furtherance of the authority granted by virtue of such emergency declaration, issued Executive Order No. 7A to address critical public health issues regarding COVID-19; and

**Whereas**, said Executive Order provides that for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, or until such time as the Governor repeals or modifies Executive Order 7A, notwithstanding Section 19a-550(b)(12) of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other statute, regulation, local rule or ordinance or provision of law, the Commissioner of Public Health is authorized to issue any and all orders restricting entrance into nursing home facilities, residential care homes or chronic disease hospitals (the Facility or Facilities) that she deems necessary to protect the health and welfare of patients, residents and staff; and

**Whereas**, on March 13, 2020, I issued an Order imposing a complete ban on all visitors to such Facilities for a period of thirty days with certain stated exceptions and restrictions; and

**Whereas**, on April 21, 2020, I extended my March 13, 2020 Order in its entirety, with the same exceptions and restrictions, to last for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, unless sooner modified or terminated by me by a future Order or the Governor's earlier repeal or modification of Executive Order No. 7A or termination of the public health and civil preparedness emergency.

**Now, therefore**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Executive Order No. 7A, and in response to the ongoing public health crisis arising out of COVID-19, especially among elderly individuals and persons with co-morbid conditions, **I hereby order that, effective immediately, unless sooner modified or terminated by me by a future Order or the Governor's earlier repeal or modification of Executive Order No. 7A or termination of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, my April 21, 2020 Order is hereby modified** by the addition of the following requirements:



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1. Every Facility shall regularly facilitate reasonable and practical alternative means of communication between residents and their family and other individuals, as designated by such resident or his or her family or legal representative, denied entry to the Facility due to the visitation restrictions imposed by this Order. Such alternative means of communications shall include, but not be limited to, window visits, virtual visitation via technological solutions (e.g. Face Time, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.), social media communications and phone calls, and shall occur at least on a weekly basis;

2. Facilities shall contact the resident's family, conservator or legal representative to decide together on which specific work shift the visits or technological solutions will be provided. All perimeter visits (i.e. window visits, outdoor social-distancing visits) shall be planned by the Facility with guidelines for safety. There shall not be any window or perimeter visits after sundown. All such visits, which shall be for a minimum of twenty (20) minutes, should be structured so as not to overwhelm Facility staff and to ensure that unintended persons do not breach the premises.

3. Facilities shall provide guidance and assistance to the resident in the use of such technological solutions and shall also regularly inform residents and their family members of the availability of such communication options and how they may be scheduled; and

4. Facilities that are unable to provide such communication and visitation alternatives shall immediately inform and work with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to find and implement a resolution.

All other provisions, exceptions and restrictions of my March 13, 2020 and April 21, 2020 Orders shall remain in effect.

Ordered this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell".

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner