

There have been numerous inquiries with regards to opening up for limited visitation. The following clarification may assist facilities with determining when they are eligible to open for visitation:

In the DAL letter dated 7/10 there are 10 listed criteria that facility must meet prior to resuming limited visitation. Number six states that the facility must have **NO NEW** onset of COVID -19 among staff or residents for a minimum of 28 days as reported on the HERDS survey.

HERDS Questions:

- **Under Facility Employee Testing Question Instructions - #4** - This should **NOT** include anyone who previously tested positive (see HERDS directions)
- **Under Residents Diagnosed Question #1** – This should **NOT** include anyone who previously tested positive

The definition of new onset /newly diagnosed is defined as the first instance the resident/staff member had a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result. This does not include anyone who previously tested positive. The DOH will track twenty eight days from the last newly diagnosed COVID positive test and if the other 9 criteria are met, the DOH will call and inform facilities that they may resume limited visitation. (An example: Patient A is Positive on May 1st. Patient A is negative on May 20th. Patient A comes up Positive on a July 20th. Patient A should NOT be recorded as a new positive on July 20th as she was previously recorded on May 1st).

Facilities need to submit the NY Forward Safety Plan to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov and await confirmation from local DOH that they may resume limited visitation based on HERDS data.

Additionally, we wanted to let you know that an extension has been granted regarding #20-07 **Civil Monetary Penalty Reinvestment Funds: Communication Devices**, which was posted on HCS on July 17, 2020 (Memo here: [DAL NH 20-07 Civil Monetary Penalty Reinvestment Funds: Communication Devices](#)). Completed applications and information was scheduled to be submitted to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov no later than **3 p.m. on Friday July 24, 2020. An extension has been granted to 3 p.m. on 7/31/2020.**

If you have any questions about the above information, please email covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov

Thank you,
GNYHCFA