

August 14, 2020

To Our Residents and Their Families:

Today, we received <u>revised guidance</u> from Texas Health and Human Services on Phase 1 Visitation of nursing home residents under the state's COVID-19 emergency rule. It provides the specific requirements determining which nursing homes can allow visitation and the parameters for those visits.

Here are the rules, in a nutshell:

Nursing homes must meet all the following criteria to permit Phase 1 visits:

- There have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases among staff for at least 14 consecutive days
- There are no active COVID-19 cases among residents
- Facility staff is tested for COVID-19 weekly
- If a nursing facility has had previous cases of COVID-19, a state inspection has verified that:
 - All staff and residents have fully recovered
 - The facility has adequate staffing to continue resident care while supervising visits
 - The facility is compliant with COVID-19 infection control requirements and emergency rules
- The facility submits a request for Phase 1 designation
- The facility receives confirmed Phase 1 designation from the state

Once granted Phase 1 status, a nursing home can allow outdoor visits, window visits, vehicle parades, and compassionate care visits involving residents and personal visitors. The visits must be scheduled in advance, by appointment, only and adhere to strict safety rules that are listed in the <u>guidelines</u>.

Please bear with us as we work through the process of becoming Phase 1 approved for visits. As you may know, having access to enough testing equipment to conduct weekly tests for all team members is a real challenge across Texas right now. And we need to attest that we have that capacity before we can apply for Phase 1 status. The state will also need to inspect each Caraday center before we can receive Phase 1 status.

The Caraday team is as excited as our residents and their families about the prospect of having in-person visits again. We are working diligently to achieve Phase 1 approval and will notify you as each center is able to schedule in-person visits.

Meanwhile, if you have any thoughts, messages, thanks, or concerns to share, please email us at <u>heroes@caradayhealth.com</u>.