



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency
1080 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Restricted Access to Residential Healthcare Facilities: What Does it Mean?

Santa Cruz County is experiencing a public health emergency due to COVID-19. Some of our most vulnerable community members are those who live in Residential Healthcare Facilities. To save lives and protect the health of these residents, the Health Officer has issued an [order](#) to restrict visitors and other non-essential personnel to Residential Healthcare Facilities.

This order took effect on Thursday, March 26 and will stay in effect through at least April 7. It may be extended beyond April 7.

Who is considered a non-essential person?

Non-essential persons are employees, contractors, or persons who do not provide treatment, maintenance, support, or administrative tasks considered essential to the healthcare of residents or other primary mission of the Residential Healthcare Facility.

What is considered a Residential Healthcare Facility?

Any Skilled Nursing Facility, Intermediate Care Facility, Residential Care Facility, Residential Care Facility for the Elderly or Continuing Care Retirement Community licensed or certified by the State of California; and, any living health facility that has gatherings and operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including services in support of daily living activities.

What is considered premises?

“Premises” includes, but is not limited to, the buildings, grounds, facilities, driveways, parking areas, and public spaces of the Residential Care Facility.

Are there any exceptions for residents to have visitors?

The Facility may allow residents to have visitors when they are at the end of their life. The exception is meant for family members, close friends, those providing religious services or support, legal representatives and trustees.

At this time, the most important thing you can do to protect your loved ones, and all members of our community, is to follow the [Health Officer’s Order to Shelter in Place](#).

For more information on COVID-19, please visit www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus.

Thank you for your cooperation.