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## **New York State Center for Assisted Living Statement on New Visitation Guidelines for Adult Care Facilities**

Albany, New York — Stephen Hanse, President and CEO of the New York State Health Facilities Association and the New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSHFA/NYSCAL), a statewide association representing over 425 long-term care facilities issued the following statement in response to today's Department of Health announcement allowing visitation in adult care facilities following the completion of a NY Forward Safety Plan and no new confirmed staff or resident COVID-19 cases over a 14-day period.

"We applaud Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Zucker for amending the guidelines for adult care facilities in New York to allow for visitation following no new confirmed staff or resident COVID-19 cases over a 14-day period."

"Adult care facilities throughout New York have made incredible strides in eradicating COVID-19 and today's revised visitation policy recognizes the success of their enormous efforts in battling this virus. Given these strides, NYSCAL has been working with the State to modify its 28-day in person visitation restriction to allow for family visitation in adult care facilities after 14 days of no new COVID-19 cases.

"It has been since early March of this year that adult care residents have been unable to receive visitors in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic. While NYSCAL providers and their residents have become skilled at using various digital communication platforms to connect with loved ones, digital interaction doesn't compare to the joy of in-person interaction."

"The policies announced today by the Department of Health are thoughtful and truly safeguard residents, staff and visitors while allowing in-person resident visitation in adult care facilities. We are hopeful that a similar plan will soon be implemented for skilled nursing facilities."

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