



Holiday FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions - Long-Term Care Facilities

Issued: October 22, 2021

Can facilities host holiday parties for residents and/or staff?

Yes, but please adhere to the most recent:

- [New Mexico Public Health Order](#) and [COVID-19 Safe Practices](#), for example, wearing a mask indoors when not eating or drinking.
- [Visitation and Activity Guidance for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities](#), for example, refer to the specific guidance regarding group activities and communal dining.

Can families bring tamales, biscochitos, and other food items to their loved ones?

Yes, please see the guidance below:

- Currently, there is no evidence that food is associated with spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.
- However, it is important to safely handle and continue to cook foods to their recommended cooking temperatures to prevent foodborne illness.
- Perform routine hand hygiene.

Can our residents receive gifts, including plants and flowers?

Yes.

- Staff, residents, and families must practice proper hand hygiene.
- Facilities should consider designated drop-off times for gifts and other items.

[CDC FOOD AND COVID-19 GUIDANCE](#)
[CDC HAND HYGIENE GUIDANCE](#)