**\*\*Communicating Change in Visitation\*\***

**\*\*Template Media Release on Facility’s Letterhead\*\***

**\*\*Please Tailor as Needed\*\***

[Logo]

For Immediate Release: [Date]

Contact: [Name], [Title]
[Organization Name]
[Phone]
[Email]

**[Organization Name] Announces Reopening Plan**

[Organization Name] is working with state and local health officials to implement a *phased approach* toward safely reopening our facility for visitation that has been restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We understand that the past few months have been challenging due to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus and the additional safety precautions that have been put in place because of the virus, such as the limitation of in-person visits to our facility. We also understand that, although these precautions have been necessary to protect the safety of our residents, not being able to visit in person has been especially challenging for them and their families,” said [Facility contact name], [title]. “The purpose of this phased approach is to provide as safe a pathway as possible to resident and family visits.”

There are three phases to [Organization Name]’s reopening plan. The types of visitation allowed at each phase will be based on several factors including COVID-19 activity in the community and the availability of resources needed to prevent and respond to potential COVID-19 activity [If your organization is a SNF, you may also add here that “and to meet Iowa Department of Public Health requirements for reopening to visitation”].

**[Organization name] will continually assess these factors to determine if additional changes are needed to our visitation policies. If there is a resurgence of COVID-19 activity in the community we will adjust our reopening plan accordingly, and provide additional updates if changes are needed.**

**[Facility Name] is currently at Phase [Number] in its reopening plan. This means that:**

* **The following types of visits are allowed effective immediately:**
	+ [Include visitation types allowed and any specific criteria for such visits, such as visitors must be screened, where masks, or whatever may be relevant at your current phase].
* **The following types of visits still are NOT allowed to protect the safety of residents:**
	+ [Include visitation types NOT allowed.]

Please contact [Name] at [Phone/Email] with any questions about arranging visits during this new transition.

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