

Covid Visitation Guidelines

(Revised 6-23)

Purpose: To provide guidance for inhouse visitation during COVID-19 pandemic.

Policy: The facility is accommodating indoor visitation following DPH and CMS' guidance and Core Principles of Covid-19 Infection Prevention.

Procedure:

CMS' Core Principles of Covid-19 Infection Prevention

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status.)
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol based hand rub is preferred)
- Face Covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and social distancing at least six feet between persons, in accordance with [CDC guidance](#).
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitation education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and in designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR 483.80 (h)(see QSO 210-38-NH Revised)

The adherence to these principles is mandatory in all circumstances and all methods of visitation unless an exception is noted in this policy.

As per the residents bill of rights -residents have the option to refuse visitors.

Whenever practicable, outdoor visitation is preferred as it generally poses a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow.

The facility will allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission (note: compassionate care visits are permitted at all times for all 3 cohorts). These scenarios include limiting indoor visitation for:

- Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home's COVID-19 positivity rate is > 10% and <70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
 - Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions; or
 - Residents in quarantine for release from quarantine. Window visits, Facetime or Zoom visits, or applicable compassionate care visits can be scheduled.
 - All visitors are encouraged to not visit if they are ill or exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 and to also notify the facility if they develop symptoms within 14 days of a visit at the facility.
 - Screening for all who enter the facility; screened for symptoms of COVID-19, temperature screen, and findings documented on the visitation log. Any visitor with a temp of 100 degrees or greater and/or exhibits symptoms for COVID-19 will be required to have their visit rescheduled for a later date.
 - All visitors and vendors must enter through the front door, where screening will occur.
 - Personal protection equipment (PPE) must be donned accordingly; Facemasks must be always worn during indoor visits by visitors, vendors and residents.
 - For situations when the health status of the resident prevents them from leaving the room, visitors will be granted in-room visitation on the nursing unit while adhering to CMS' Core Principles of Covid-19 Infection Prevention.
- ❖ Such visits in a patient room on the unit should not exceed one hour
- The recommended visiting hours are from 11:00am to 5:00 pm.
 - One visitor per room. If there are multiple family member, the hour may be divided amongst the family members.
 - Resident, and Family masks should be worn for the entire duration of the visitation.
 - If a resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch)
 - In rooms that are shared, curtains should be drawn to ensure privacy of the roommate
 - Food is not permitted to be shared during these visitations. All food brought in should be left with the nurse on duty.

- ❖ Recreation Room/ Outside Visitations are available and should be scheduled. Visits will be supervised by a staff member to ensure principles are adhered to.
 - Children under the age of 18 are allowed outdoor visitation.
 - There is a 3 person maximum per visit. Visit will be a maximum of 30 minutes.
 - Limited movement in the facility; visitors and vendors are asked not to wander throughout the facility. Such individuals should go directly to the designated visitation area.
 - A regular cleaning schedule is in place for equipment, frequently touched areas and common rooms, visitation areas and resident rooms. Proper and thorough disinfecting of chairs, tables, and dividers will take place between visits.
 - Vendors, only after giving prior notification, will be granted entry and accompanied by the manager who is coordinating the visit.

Upon the identification of a positive Covid-19 staff or patient, the facility will suspend all visitation, except Compassionate Care visits. After completing one round of Covid-19 outbreak surveillance testing and

- No new Covid-19 cases are identified thus far on other units of the facility, the facility can reinstate visitation for patients and units without a COVID-19 case.
- Additional cases of Covid-19 are revealed on other units throughout the facility, the facility will suspend visitation until it surpasses two cycles of Covid-19 testing/14 days pass without a new Covid-19 case.

Pet visits are currently not taking place.

The Director of Recreation will set up dates and times of visits. Resident's wishes will be included in the decision making process. Appointments needs to be made in advance except in the case of end-of-life visitation. End of life visits will be scheduled by supervisory staff.

This policy us for review of all residents and families. All residents are educated on guidelines on or around 6-23-21.