

Visitation Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

POLICY STATEMENT

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility has adopted the following changes to our normal policies and procedures, in accordance with current local, state or national standards.

Core Principles of Infection Prevention that ALL VISITORS Must Follow

- a. Do not enter the facility if they have had a positive viral test for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or if they meet the criteria for quarantine until they meet the current CDC criteria used for residents of a health care facility to discontinue transmission-based precautions.
- b. Pass a health screening conducted by facility staff prior to entering the facility.
- c. Limit movement and visits to the resident's room or facility designated areas only.
- d. Wear a face mask and perform proper hand hygiene. Visitors are responsible for bringing their own face mask. Cloth face masks are not permitted.
- e. Maintain social distance of at least six feet with staff and residents.
- f. Sign in and out of the facility using a visitor log located at the designated area.
- g. Immediately inform the facility if they develop a fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 within fourteen (14) days of a visit to the facility.
- h. Sign an acknowledgement form noting receipt and understanding of the facility's visitation and infection prevention and control policies that includes education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, and other applicable facility practices.

Visitor Testing and Vaccination

While not required, visitors are encouraged to have themselves tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to visiting the facility, especially if the local level of community transmission is substantial or high. Depending on the availability of test kits and the local level of community transmission, the facility may choose to offer testing to visitors prior to their visit.

While not required, visitors are strongly encouraged to become vaccinated. Vaccination has proven to be a safe and effective method of preventing spread and serious illness of COVID-19. All visitors will be asked to provide proof of vaccination status prior to entering the facility. If a visitor is not able to provide proof that they are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination

status, or chooses not to disclose their vaccination status, they may still visit but will be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment at all times during their visit.

Face Coverings and Physical Distancing During Visits:

Visitors should wear facemasks and physically distance when around any resident besides the visiting resident or any healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status.

If the Polk County COVID-19 community level of transmission, as published by the CDC, is:

Substantial to High -- Facemasks and social distancing must be applied during all visits, regardless of the vaccination status of the resident and visitors.

Low to Moderate – Facemasks and social distancing is encouraged during all visits, regardless of the vaccination status of the resident and visitors. However, if the resident and all their visitors are up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses and the resident is not moderately or severely immunocompromised, they may choose not to wear face coverings or masks and to have physical contact. If this occurs, visitors must still wear a mask and socially distance in the presence of other residents or staff.

Residents, regardless of vaccination status, can choose not to wear face coverings or masks when other residents are not present and have close contact with their visitor.

Visitation Guidelines for Residents WITHOUT a Roommate:

For residents without a roommate, while abiding by the requirements of this policy, residents are permitted to have unlimited indoor visitation, without restriction to the frequency and length of visits, the number of visitors (unless the number reaches a point that would cause a health or safety issue for the available space that the visit is occurring in), and visits are not required to be scheduled in advance. These visits will normally occur inside the resident's room however there are multiple outdoor and indoor locations that are available to be used for visits on a first come first serve basis.

Visitation Guidelines for Residents WITH a Roommate:

For residents with a roommate, while the same policy as residents without a roommate applies, in that there is no restriction to the frequency and length of visits, the number of visitors and visits are not required to be scheduled in advance, depending on the medical condition and vaccination status of the roommate, there is a chance that the visit will be required to take place at an alternate location. The facility has multiple outdoor and indoor spaces designated for this purpose that are available on a first come first serve basis. If all the available alternate designated visiting spaces are occupied at the time of your visit, you will then be permitted to conduct the visit inside the resident's room, however additional infection control precautions may be required, such as the utilization of additional personal protective equipment, beyond what is normally outlined in this policy.

Visitation Restrictions for Residents on Transmission-Based Precautions or Quarantine:

If a resident is on Transmission-Based Precautions or Quarantine, it is strongly recommended that no visitation occur, but visitation is not prohibited. If a resident chooses to have a visit while on Transmission-Based Precautions or Quarantine, the visitor will be made aware of the potential risks of conducting the visit and the precautions necessary in order to visit the resident. These visits may only occur inside the resident's room and the visitor must, at all times, follow all necessary infection prevention and personal protective equipment procedures during the visit as required by the facility.

Visitation Restrictions During an Outbreak Investigation:

An outbreak investigation occurs if there is one or more new COVID-19 cases detected among staff or residents. During an outbreak investigation it is strongly recommended that no visitation occur, but visitation is not prohibited. If a resident chooses to have a visitor during an outbreak investigation, the visitor will be made aware of the potential risks of conducting the visit and the precautions necessary in order to visit the resident. Visitors must always follow all necessary infection prevention and personal protective equipment procedures during the visit as required by the facility. Please note that during an Outbreak Investigation, the local health authorities may impose additional restrictions on top of those outlined in this policy.

Designated Visiting Locations

In addition to visits that can take place inside a resident's room, we have multiple designated areas at the community that can be utilized for visiting if the resident does not want or is unable to have the visit in their room. These designated areas include multiple outdoor and indoor areas. Current governmental rules prohibit us from reserving or scheduling these spaces in advance or limiting the amount of time any individual may use them, therefore they are available on a first come first serve basis.

COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITORS

Compassionate Care Visitors are individuals who provide support, including emotional support, to help residents deal with difficult transition or loss, upsetting events, end-of life situations, significant changes, the need for assistance, cueing or encouraging with eating or drinking, or emotional distress or decline. Previously, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, there was far more restrictions placed on visitation than under this current policy. The need for a Compassionate Care visit under current practice should be relatively limited in need, but this process is still available. Compassionate Care Visitors would be allowed visitation in the few scenarios that visitation would otherwise be denied. For information on how to become a Compassionate Care Visitor please reach out to Administration at (863) 858-3847, extension 104.