



December 13, 2021

Thank you for choosing our facility to care for your loved one. The journey with COVID-19 has been rough on everyone. Though we are all ready to return to unrestricted visitation and normal operations, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) visitation rules still have many requirements to be met, for example,

- all guests and residents must follow core infection control practices as outlined by the CDC,
- symptom-free and exposure-free screening must occur prior to entrance,
- the visitation space must be cleaned between visits, and
- the safety and rights of the other residents may not be compromised.

Our experience over the past 6 months has demonstrated the majority of covid outbreaks are initiated by asymptomatic, vaccinated, persons. The risk for ongoing spread remains high for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. US rates, including breakthrough cases are increasing. Even though visit times and length are not restricted, because of the limited locations in order to comply with all aspects of the law, we request you be mindful of others as outlined below.

As we work to find the balance between providing care, trying to prevent the spread of the virus through the residents, and ensuring all residents have their loved ones with them, especially during the holidays, please know we have seen no difference in who can transmit or contract COVID-19. The vaccine does not prevent you spreading this virus to your loved one.

We are sharing this information to emphasize that even though it is publicized as safe for vaccinated individuals to unmask if all parties are vaccinated, you need to use wisdom and caution when doing so.

Here are the visitation guidelines:

- Visits will be conducted in a manner that adheres to the CDC core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents.
 - Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. Facilities should screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
 - Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)•
 - Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance
 - Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor 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 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-20-38-NH)
- Physical distancing (>6 feet) will be maintained from other residents, staff, and other visitors that are not part of their group in the facility regardless of vaccination status.

- Visitors should wear a facility provided mask.
- Visitors will go directly to the designated visitation area.
 - The resident's room may be the designated space under specific circumstances.
 - Resident room visits will not be conducted if there is a roommate and/or resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status).
- If both the Resident and Visitors are fully vaccinated, CMS guidelines allow that they may remove their masks in the designated visitation area; however, we have seen transmission between vaccinated visitor to resident initiating a full facility outbreak and would advise caution. For residents who are on transmission-based precautions or quarantine, visits may occur in the resident's room and the resident should wear a well-fitted facemask (if tolerated).
- Children are allowed. It is not recommended children under 2 wear a mask which increases the child's risk for exposure, so visits are at the decision of the parent/guardian. All other children must be able to wear a mask and all children must be able follow the infection control principles including good hand hygiene.
- Visitors will be screened prior to entering for COVID-19 like symptoms, provided education, and must sign the information is true and accurate and they understand the risks of them transmitting or contracting the virus regardless of vaccination status. Educational materials are provided on our website and attached to this document, as well as posted at the entrance. These documents provide COVID-19 information, hand hygiene, cough etiquette and guidance for maintaining at least 6 ft. social distancing according to resident preference
 - What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others
 - Stop the Spread of Germs.
 - Face Mask Do's and Don'ts
- Visits will be conducted in designated visitation areas.
 - The resident's room may be utilized *in certain circumstances*. It is encouraged for your convenience and comfort to contact the facility in advance to ensure the designated space is cleared and ready for the next visitors.
- Masks must be worn when any member of the party is unvaccinated (including residents and visitors) and in all common areas from entrance.
- Pets are allowed during indoor and outdoor visitation. The pet may only visit the intended resident, in accordance with the pet policy. Avoid pet engagement with other persons not included in the visitation session.
- If the visitor develops COVID symptoms within 48-hours after their visit or the visitor receives notification they were exposed to a person who tested positive during the 14-days prior to the visit, they must report these symptoms or exposure to us immediately so we may institute contact tracing measures. It may impact all of our residents.

Thank you for following these guidelines and keeping safety a number one priority!

NOTE: This facility's specific visitation plans may vary slightly based on local area restrictions and factors, such as local or state health department guidance, staffing, testing, PPE, etc. We will continue to monitor new information on COVID-19 as well as any impact the pandemic has on the facility as we consider future plans. Should we see a change in the virus or increase in cases, we may pause our efforts and resume restricted operations protocols and evaluate our next steps.

By entering, you agree to abide by the above-written rules, as well as all other rules, regulations, policies, procedures, practices, and recommendations communicated to you by the Facility. Failure to abide by any of the foregoing may result in the Facility staff shortening your visit, cancelling your visit, denying you any and/or all subsequent visits, and/or banning you from the Facility's premises for an indefinite period.