
POLICY TITLE: INDOOR / IN-ROOM & OUTDOOR VISITATION

POLICY:

To ensure residents and their visitors have safe, protected, visitation in the Skilled Nursing Facility and to respect resident right to receive visitors of his or her choosing at the time of his or her choosing, subject to the resident's right to deny visitation when applicable, and in a manner that does not impose on the rights of another resident,”

PURPOSE:

Resident visitation should be person-centered, consider the residents’ physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life while adhering to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of infection prevention should not be permitted to visit or should be asked to leave. By following a person-centered approach and adhering to these core principles, visitation can occur safely based on the below guidance.

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control

- Facilities will provide guidance about recommended actions for visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Visitors will be screened prior to entry to the facility and informed through posters, signs and other forms of communication as available.
- Visitors with confirmed COVID19 infection or compatible symptoms should defer non-urgent in-person visitation until they meet CDC criteria for healthcare settings to end isolation.
- For visitors who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection, it is safest to defer non-urgent in-person visitation until 10 days after their close contact if they meet criteria described in CDC healthcare guidance (e.g., cannot wear source control).
- Hand hygiene, including the use of alcohol-based hand rub is recommended to be observed for all visitors.
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) is required for all visitors.

PROCEDURES:

Outdoor Visitation

Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and

airflow. For outdoor visits, the facility will create accessible and safe outdoor spaces for visitation, such as in courtyards, patios, or parking lots, including the use of tents, if available. However, weather considerations (e.g., inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality) or an individual resident's health status (e.g., medical condition(s), COVID-19 status, quarantine status) may hinder outdoor visits. When conducting outdoor visitation, all appropriate infection control and prevention practices should be followed.

Indoor Visitation

The facility will always allow indoor visitation and for all residents as permitted under the regulations. The facility will no longer limit the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits.

Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents including requiring face masks during visits

Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak Investigation

An outbreak investigation is initiated when a single new case of COVID-19 occurs among residents or staff to determine if others have been exposed.

If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, the visit should ideally occur in the resident's room, the resident and their visitors should wear well-fitting source control (if tolerated) and physically distance (if possible) during the visit.

While an outbreak investigation is occurring, the facility should limit visitor movement in the facility. Visitors are encouraged not to walk around the different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.

References:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>