



POLICY:

Serenity Rehab and Health Center will continue to adhere to the core principles of infection prevention/control and Core Principles of COVID-19 infection prevention that are consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance during indoor and outdoor visitations. The facility will ensure residents and their visitors have safe, protected, indoor and outdoor visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, and ensuring an adequate degree of privacy for residents and their visitors. **Outdoor visitation is still preferred over indoor when possible.**

Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit or will be asked to leave.

Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, will not be allowed to enter the facility.

Procedures:

- Visitors will be educated and reminded of appropriate hand hygiene practices for visitors through posted signs.
- Alcohol-based-hand-rub will be available as needed.
- Visitors will be pre-screened and temperature will be checked prior to the visitation.
- Serenity Rehab receptionist will greet visitors at the entrance of the facility and item 1-4 listed below must be completed:
 1. Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
 2. Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose)
 3. Screen all visitors and service providers using the kiosk or Paper
 4. Perform temperature check and symptom screening.
 5. Ensure visitors are fever-free, symptom-free, and have no known exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- The facility will strongly encourage all visitors to become vaccinated.
- Visitor testing and vaccination can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated prior to the visit; but are encouraged to get tested 2–3 days prior to their visit.
- Facility staff may ask about a visitors' vaccination status, however, visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation as stated above.
- During indoor visitation, facilities will limit visitor movement in the facility. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.

OUTDOOR VISITATION:

- While taking a person-centered approach and adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, outdoor visitation is **PREFERRED** when the resident and/or visitor are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow.
- Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits will be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to the residents. When resident have a large number of visitors visiting at the same time, facility staff will encourage visitors to split into smaller groups at a time to allow for a safe visit and minimize congregation and avoid large gatherings at the same time.
- The designated outdoor visitation area is **Facility Front Patio** and will accommodate up to 6 visitors per resident at the same time putting into consideration physical distancing while visiting.
- However, weather considerations (e.g., inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, and poor air quality) or an individual resident's health status (e.g., medical condition(s), COVID-19 status, and quarantine status) may hinder outdoor visits.
- When conducting outdoor visitation, all appropriate infection control and prevention practices will be followed.
- Masking/cloth face covering is required for visitors during the visitation.
- Visitors and residents will be educated on maintaining social distancing (at least 6 feet between residents and visitors) during the visitation through posted signs.
- The facility has a right to revoke, cancel, or deny a visitation if infection controls measures is not adhered to.

SAFE INDOOR VISITATION

- Serenity allows indoor visitation at all times and for all residents as permitted under the regulations.
 - There is no longer a limit the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits. However, the facility will ensure visits are conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention (Hand Hygiene face covering, physical distancing) and does not increase risk to other residents.
 - The facility has a right to revoke, cancel, or deny a scheduled visitation if infection controls measures is not adhered to.
 - Based on a facility's structure and residents' needs, Serenity will prefer dedicated visitation spaces, and outdoors.
1. The designated indoor visitation area for residents residing on Unit 1 is Unit 1 Day Room /Dining room located on the first floor of the facility
 2. The designated indoor visitation area for residents residing on Unit 2 is Unit 2 Day Room / Dining room located on the second floor of the facility
 3. The designated indoor visitation area for residents residing on Unit 3 is Unit 3 Day Room /Dining Room located on the third floor of the facility
- In- room visitation will be allowed if resident is in a private room.

- In- room visitation may occur if room mate of the resident is not immunocompromised and vaccinated.

If visitation occurs in a resident's room:

- If visitation occurs in resident's room; visitors must not sit or lay on the resident's bed. Visitors must treat each roommate as having a separate zone and privacy curtains must be drawn to limit direct contact.
- Visitors are not allowed to use resident facilities, including restrooms. They will be directed to restrooms that are not used by residents.
- Cleaning and disinfection of the room will occur after the visit is completed.
- Facility will not allow in-room visitation if the resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status).
- The facility may consider in- room visitation for situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention.
- Serenity Rehab will clean and disinfect high touch surfaces (e.g., light switches, elevator buttons, door handles) in the facility at least twice a shift.
- Serenity Rehab will not allow other residents in the area where visit is taking place until visitations are completed and the area is cleaned and disinfected
- If the District's COVID-19 level of transmission is substantial to high, all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, should wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, at all times.
- If the District is of low to moderate transmission, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, particularly if either of them is at increased risk for severe disease or are unvaccinated.
- If the resident and all their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated 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 the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor.
- Visitors should wear face coverings or masks when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Unvaccinated** residents may also choose to have physical touch based on their preferences and needs, such as with support persons for individuals with disabilities and visitors participating in certain religious practices, including in end-of-life situations. In these situations, unvaccinated residents (or their representative) and their visitors will be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit.
- Visitors must also physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.

Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak Investigation

- Visitors will still be allowed in the facility during an Outbreak Investigation:
- Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.

- If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they will wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room.
- However, the facility will be in contact with assigned Epidemiologist for guidance or direction on how to structure the visitation to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during an outbreak investigation.

Compassionate Care Visits:

Compassionate care visits are allowed at all times while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention/ control and Core Principles of COVID-19 infection.

Access to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman:

- The facility will provide representatives of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman with immediate access to any resident.
- If an ombudsman is planning to visit a resident who is in Transmission Based Precaution (TBP) or quarantine, or an unvaccinated resident in the facility, or when the District's level of community transmission is substantial or high in the past 7 days, the resident and ombudsman will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting, and the visit should take place in the resident's room.
- The representatives of the Office of the Ombudsman should adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention as described above.
- If the resident or the Ombudsman program requests alternative communication in lieu of an in-person visit, facility will facilitate alternative resident communication with the Ombudsman program, such as by phone.

Federal Disability Rights Laws and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Programs

The facility will allow immediate access to a resident by any representative of the protection and advocacy systems.

If the P&A is planning to visit a resident who is in TBP or quarantine, or an unvaccinated resident when the level of community transmission is substantial or high in the past 7 days, the resident and P&A representative should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and the visit should take place in the resident's room.

References:

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

<https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurvey/certificationgeninfo/policy-and-memos-states-and/nursing-home-visitation-covid-19-revised>