



The Allure Group

Visitation During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE)

POLICY STATEMENT:

Our facility is committed to allow visitation for all residents at all times while maintaining the proper steps and efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread by following NYS and Federal guidelines

INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:

I. Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention:

Facility shall adhere to the core principles of infection prevention and best practices which include the following:

- 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 by CMS/NYS guidelines
- 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

II. Outdoor Visitation:

- Outdoor visitation is preferred even when the residents and/or visitors are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Note: *fully vaccinated refers to a person who is ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose in a single-dose vaccine*

- Weather considerations or an individual resident's health status may hinder outdoor visits
- All appropriate infection control and prevention practices should be followed

III. Indoor Visitation:

Indoor visitation is allowed at all time and for all residents.

- There is no limit for frequency and length of visits, the number of visitors during the day
- Advanced scheduling is not required; however visitors are encouraged to coordinate the visits among themselves (large families, multiple relatives, etc.)
- Physical distancing should be maintained during peak times of visitation (e.g., mealtimes, after business hours, etc.)
- Avoid large gathering where large number of visitors are in the same space at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Visitor movement in the activity should be limited. Visitors should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area

Considerations:

- If a resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible.
- If the community level of transmission is substantial to high, all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, should wear face covering or masks and physically distance, at all times
- If the community level of transmission is low to moderate, 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
- Visitors should wear face coverings or masks when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status
- Residents who are on transmission-based precautions or quarantine can receive compassionate care visits in their room. Resident should wear a well-fitting facemask, if tolerated. Visitors should be educated about potential risk and precautions necessary in order to visit and wear appropriate PPE
- Fully vaccinated residents may choose to have close contact with their visitor. Unvaccinated residents may also choose to have physical touch based on their preferences and needs, however both residents and their visitors should be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to visit
- Visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility

IV. Indoor visitation during an outbreak investigation:

While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors still be allowed in the facility.

- Visitors should 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 should wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room

V. Visitors testing and vaccination:

- Facility should encourage visitors to be tested in community on their own before coming to the facility (within 2-3 days)
- Facility has the right to ask about visitors' vaccination status. Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated as a condition of visitation. However, if the visitor declines to disclose vaccination status, the visitor should wear a face coverage or mask at all times

VI. Compassionate care visits:

Compassionate care visits are allowed at all times. There are few situations when visitations should be limited to compassionate care visits:

- Resident is severely immunocompromised
- The number of visitors the resident is exposed to needs to be kept to a minimum

VII. Ombudsman and Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Programs:

Our facility provides immediate access to a resident by any representatives of the Ombudsman and/or protection and advocacy systems.

- If representative is planning to visit a resident who is in TBP or quarantine, or an unvaccinated resident in a county where the level of community transmission is substantial or high in the past 7 days, the resident and ombudsman/P&A representative should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and the visit should take place in the resident's room.
- If the resident or the Ombudsman program requests alternative communication in lieu of an in-person visit, our facility will, at a minimum, facilitate alternative resident communication with the Ombudsman program, such as by phone or through use of other technology.

Created and implemented on:

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