

**ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

SUBJECT: Visitation During Concerns of Infection Within Community

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EFFECTIVE DATE: October 5, 2020

REVISED/REINSTATED: February, 26, 2024

POLICY:

To provide a safe environment for all residents and staff while preventing the spread of infection and reuniting residents with their families for mental well-being.

PROCEDURE:

Each community must consider their county positivity rate, the facility's infection status, a resident's infection status, visitor symptoms, lack of adherence to proper infection control practices, or other relevant factors consistent with following guidance from the state or federal regulating agencies. These risks shall be re-evaluated as these conditions change within the community setting and the community's geographical area.

For purposes specific to the protection and infection control of the residents and staff, "Visitor" is defined as any individual(s) other than an employee seeking to access the community.

Visitors will be allowed inside the community to visit the resident in the resident's apartment at all times for all residents, during visitation hours set forth by the facility.

Visitors should be instructed to closely monitor their symptoms and not visit if experiencing symptoms.

Upon entry into the community, each visitor shall have access to the nearest handwashing station and/or hand sanitizing station for proper hand hygiene to be performed. Staff shall educate each visitor on proper hand hygiene as needed and have a sign posted at these stations with instructions.

Each visitor shall sign the Sign In/Out book at the community entrance. The facility shall ensure the visitors for each resident have their address, phone number, and email address, if applicable, on file at the community for purposes of contact-tracing as required by state or federal guidelines or regulations.

If a resident's roommate is immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible.

Residents may choose to have consensual physical contact based on their preferences and needs (e.g., support persons with those who have disabilities, religious practices, and end-of-life situations).

Those residents and their visitor should also be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit. Visitors who are 18 years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult during visitations.

A resident or responsible person to the resident may designate a visitor as their essential caregiver. This essential caregiver can be changed at any time by the resident. The essential caregiver is allowed to visit the resident during the same visitation hours as all other visitors.

While not recommended, residents who are on transmission-based precautions or quarantine can still receive visitors. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident's room and the resident should wear a well-fitting face mask (if tolerated). Before these visits occur, visitors should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident. Visitors should adhere to all infection control precautions. The facility shall provide the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the visitor and education shall be provided on how to don and doff all PPE.

Unless the length of a visit interferes with resident care, a visitor may visit for any length of time during community visiting hours. Staff may ask a visitor or essential caregiver to step outside of the resident room until the care of the resident is completed unless the resident prefers the individual to remain in the room and permission is given. The visit may resume once the care task is completed.

A visitor or essential caregiver may remain beyond the facilities routine visiting hours under the following circumstances:

- End-of-life situations
- A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the facility and is struggling with the change of environment and lack of in-person family support
- The resident is making one or more major medical decisions
- A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died
- A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver
- A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking
- If permission is granted by the Administrator for other reasons not listed above

Visitors should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak and adhere to core principles of infection prevention.

If a visitor does not adhere to the guidelines set forth within this policy, the Administrator or designee must review this policy, provide additional education with the visitor, and document their understanding of necessary adherence. If a visitor continues to violate these requirements, the Administrator may restrict the individual from visiting the facility.

The Administrator and/or designee is responsible for ensuring that facility staff adhere to the above.

Facility Visitation Hours:

Starting Hours 7:30 AM

Ending Hours 7:30 PM

Please contact the community directly for any change in hours.