



## Family/Visitor Indoor and Outdoor Visitation Policy and Protocol

### COVID 19

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Issued: March 2021

Subject: Family & Visitors Visitation Policy

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released updated nursing home visitation guidance. This update is a revision to the guidance released in September 2020 and provides even more flexibility thanks to vaccination of residents and nursing home staff. These changes are effective immediately and are consistent with updated guidance for healthcare settings released concurrently from Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Mary Wade's policy adheres to this guidance and is set forth in this policy update. This policy supersedes previous Mary Wade policy regarding this subject.

#### Outdoor Visitation

Outdoor visitation is still the preferred method of visitation, regardless of the vaccination status of residents or visitors. As before, outdoor visitation may generally continue regardless of the nursing home's outbreak status or county positivity rate. Residents on transmission-based precautions, either due to suspected or confirmed infection or due to quarantine, are still restricted from visitation regardless of vaccination status until transmission-based precautions have been discontinued.

#### Indoor Visitation

Indoor visitation has been revised significantly. The new guidance has adjusted restrictions related to county positivity rates and outbreak status, as outlined below. As noted above, residents on transmission-based precautions are still restricted from visitation regardless of vaccination status until transmission-based precautions have been discontinued.

***Indoor Visitation – County Positivity Rate.*** Indoor visitation may now take place regardless of the county positivity rate, with one exception: residents who are not fully vaccinated are restricted from indoor visitation if the county positivity rate is greater than 10% and less than 70% of the nursing home's total resident population has been vaccinated. If the county positivity rate is less than 10% or if more than 70% of the nursing home's total resident population has been vaccinated, unvaccinated residents may enjoy indoor visitation. Fully vaccinated residents may enjoy indoor visitation regardless of county positivity rate and the vaccination rate of the total nursing home resident population.

***Indoor Visitation – Outbreak.*** Indoor visitation may now occur during an outbreak according to the following processes and parameters:

- If one positive case has been identified among staff or one nursing home-onset case among residents (outbreak), indoor visitation is immediately suspended and the nursing home must initiate outbreak testing protocols.
- After one round of outbreak testing of all staff and residents, if the outbreak is found to be contained to a single area, such as a single unit, indoor visitation may resume in the unaffected areas / units. Outbreak testing will continue according to previously-outlined requirements.

- If the first round of testing or any subsequent outbreak testing indicate that the outbreak is not contained to a single area or unit, indoor visitation is restricted for all residents regardless of vaccination status until criteria have been met to discontinue outbreak testing. That is, all residents and staff test negative and 14 days have passed since the last positive test result.

#### Additional Flexibilities and Considerations

We will continue to screen all visitors prior to entry. Visitors who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days will be restricted regardless of the visitor's vaccination status. Visitors will also continue to be required to adhere to core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention including wearing a mask throughout the visit and practicing effective hand hygiene. Visitors will be notified of the risk for exposure during visitation, including appropriate signage regarding current outbreaks.

Fully vaccinated residents may choose to have physical contact with their visitors provided they are wearing a well-fitting mask and hand hygiene is performed before and after physical contact. Visitors must continue to maintain social distancing from all other residents and staff during the visit.

Additionally, we note that the CDC guidance referenced above encourages unvaccinated residents to delay indoor visitation until they have been fully vaccinated.

#### Scheduling Your Visit

- Please call the direct lines below:  
Tiffany Burnham, Director of Recreation for residents in the Kimberly building at 203-672-7841 or Maria Olmo, Director of Boardman Residence at 203-672-7832 to schedule your visit with a resident in the Boardman Hall building.

In order to best assist with orderly scheduling of visits please make your appointment by Friday for the following week. Please wait for a confirmation of your appointment before visiting.

- When scheduled for an outdoor visit please use the outside entrance next to our finance office at 106 Clinton Ave. Please do not park in the driveway.
- When scheduled for an indoor visit please enter through the front entrance where the receptionist will assist and direct you.
- Please be aware that there are still restrictions on the number of visitors allowed on the campus at any one time and that there is a limit to no more than 4 visitors per resident.
- Visits are scheduled in 30-minute time frames. Please plan to arrive on time to ensure that you will have the full 30 minutes available to visit.
- Staff will remind families upon arrival for those residents who are at risk for falling. Staff may remain at a safe distance (if needed or if family requests) with fall risk residents for the duration of the visit to keep the residents safe. Falls may occur if residents are not supervised.
- Personal items dropped off for residents can be brought in to the lobby where the receptionist will assist you.
- Please be aware that there is no eating or drinking allowed during the visit.

#### Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

The following are the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention as outlined by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit.

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and Symptoms of COVID-19(e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with the COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status).
- Hand Hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose)
- Social distancing at least 6 feet between persons
- Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often and designated visitation areas after each visit.

*Issued March 2021*