



# Mennonite Home Communities



Serve Together

**11/16/2021**

## **RE: Visitation Guidance for The Mennnonite Home**

Greetings family and friends,

Happy November to all!

We hope each of you are finding opportunity to enjoy the season and the special holidays coming up!

We are excited to announce that the visitation guidance for nursing homes has been updated to include visits for all residents at all times!

In addition, there are no limits on the frequency and length of visitation or the number of visitors.

With this new approach we are still required to meet Core principals of COVID-19 Infection Prevention to support and protect our residents, team, and visitors alike.

### Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

All visits from vaccinated and unvaccinated visitors must follow infection control guidelines:

- 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 who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine.



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- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose); a surgical mask is preferred; must be worn at all times when in the facility and during the visit due to the current COVID-19 community transmission rate.
- Physical distancing of at least six feet between persons, 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 MH practices  
(see communication board in Main entrance and Household postings)

## Visit Guidelines

- Indoor visits will be on resident's households/designated visitation locations. Visitors should stay with resident in designated area and maintain physical distance from other residents and team members.
- For residents with roommates, still suggested to visit separately to coordinated
- COVID 19 Vaccine information  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html?s\\_cid=10493:covid%20vaccine:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21#print](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html?s_cid=10493:covid%20vaccine:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21#print)
- Although scheduling your visit is not required, we recommend you use the process outlined below to best protect residents and provide the best possible environment for the visit.  
Guidance remains that residents that share a room be afforded the opportunity to visit in a neutral space that would not impact their roommate.
- Recommend scheduling – via Visitation Specialist (Marcia Hirneisen 717-390-4131) or sign up genius on our website: [www.mennonitehome.org](http://www.mennonitehome.org)  
If you have any questions for review it is recommended for you to call our Volunteer specialist.
- Utilize the COVID 19 Screening process upon entry for all individuals
- Education – hand hygiene, utilizing a mask for the duration of your visit, social distancing, and completing the COVID screening paperwork.



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The following are some frequently asked questions for you to review

**Q: Does the visitor and the resident have to wear a face covering during the visit?**

A: Masks continue to be required to be worn at all times in the facility with the following exceptions:

If both the resident and the visitors are fully vaccinated, then face masks are not needed to be worn and close contact is permitted when visiting in resident's room or the parlor separate from contact with other residents or team members.

If either the resident or visitors are not fully vaccinated, then face masks need to be worn by everyone.

B: Visitors should continue to physically distance from other residents and staff

Per CMS, "Visits for residents who share a room should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible." CMS and CDC encourage facilities to create designated visitation spaces for residents with roommates to decrease the risk of exposure to COVID-19. If both residents are bed bound, facility will attempt to make an in-room visit possible. If that occurs, then everyone in the room is to wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status.

**Q: Can I eat a meal with my loved one?**

A: Yes, meals can be enjoyed together

**Q: Who do I contact to schedule visitation?**

A: Visitation specialist can be reached at 717-390-4131 or via sign up genius at [www.mennonitehome.org](http://www.mennonitehome.org).

**Q: Can I schedule more than 2 visits per week?**

A: yes, visits may be conducted anytime requested.

**Q: Are visitors allowed to bring pets to the visit?**

A. Pets (dogs/cats) must be pre-approved with our Volunteer Manager. Pet owner must review our Pet Visitation Policy, sign a pet waiver and provide a copy of the pet's current vaccination record 24-hours prior to visit. Our pet policy is available from the receptionists or by calling 717-390-7971.

**Resources:**

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

CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html#anchor\\_1619116532180](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html#anchor_1619116532180)



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**Any questions please contact our Visitation Specialist listed above.**

**Thank you,  
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