

Updated Facility Visitation Plan (February 23, 2021)

The N.Y.S. Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) issued a Health Advisory on February 23, 2021 (copy available in document titled ‘revised nursing-home-visitation-guidance-2-23-21’), which allows limited visitation subject to the Facility’s visitation plan.

The Facility’s Visitation Plan has been updated in accordance with NYSDOH Health Advisory dated February 23, 2021. Under the revised DOH Health Advisory guidance beginning February 26, 2021, nursing homes may expand visitation and/or activities based on the needs of the residents and the facility’s structure. In addition, this policy does not change the facility’s previous policy and procedure for visitation of residents due to medical necessity or end-of life services.

Visitation is subject to the Facility maintaining the criteria established by NYSDOH, which include, the requirement that the Facility remain COVID-free for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days. Should the Facility not remain COVID-free, then all visitation will be suspended until such time that Facility is COVID-free for fourteen (14) days.

Therefore, it is extremely important that all visitors comply with the Facility’s Visitation Plan as listed below.

Facility Visitation Plan:

1. The facility will use the CMS COVID-19 county positivity rate, found on the COVID-19 Nursing Home Data site (link available at: <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg>) as additional information to determine how to facilitate indoor visitation, and will abide by the following:
 - **Low (<5%)** = Visitation should occur according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (beyond compassionate care visits). For county COVID-19 positivity rates below 5%, visitor testing is strongly encouraged.*
 - **Medium (5% – 10%)** = Visitation should occur according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (beyond compassionate care visits). Visitor testing is required. Visitors must either: present a negative COVID19 test result from within the past seventy-two hours (72).* Alternatively, the visitor(s) may provide proof of having completed the COVID-19 vaccination series no less than 14 days prior to the date of the visit but also within 90 days of the last vaccination. However, proof of vaccination is not a guarantee that a visitor is not transmitting COVID-19, so testing is still recommended, and facilities may choose to require testing for these individuals. Additionally, all visitors must adhere to all infection control practices.
 - **High (>10%)** = Visitation must only occur for compassionate care situations according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies. Testing should be done even for such compassionate care visits.*
2. All visits should be held outdoors whenever practicable as outdoor visits pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow. Aside from weather considerations (e.g., inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality), an individual resident’s health status (e.g., medical condition(s), COVID-19 status), or a facility’s outbreak status, outdoor visitation should be facilitated routinely.
3. Visitation can be inside, in a well-ventilated space with no more than **20%** of the facility’s census as permitted by space to ensure individuals are appropriately socially distanced and wearing a facemask while in the presence of others. This includes residents visiting each other.
4. The facility will accommodate and support indoor visitation, including visits for reasons beyond compassionate care situations, when the COVID-19 county positivity is less than 10%, based on the guidelines above.

*Facility may utilize rapid testing

5. Visitation will be allowed, including, but not limited to, family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations, under the following conditions:
- i. The facility has no new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and the facility is not currently conducting outbreak testing.
 - ii. Adequate staff are present to allow for personnel to help with the transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant.
 - iii. The Facility maintains signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene and uses applicable floor markings to cue social distancing delineations.
 - iv. As per the Department of Health, visitors will be prohibited from entering the building if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or fail to produce proof of a negative test result.
 - v. Visitors are screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access and visitation will be refused if the individual(s) exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or do not pass the screening questions. Screening shall consist of both temperature checks and asking screening questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19 which shall include questions regarding international travel or travel to other states designated under the Commissioner's travel advisory. The Facility will maintain screening questions asked onsite and make it available upon the DOH's request.
 - vi. Documentation of screening will be maintained onsite in an electronic format and available upon the DOH's request for purposes of inspection and potential contact tracing. Documentation **shall** include the following for each visitor to the Facility:
 1. First and last name of the visitor;
 2. Physical (street) address of the visitor;
 3. Daytime and evening telephone number;
 4. Date and time of visit;
 5. Email address, if available; and
 6. A notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.
 - vii. There is adequate PPE made available by the Facility to ensure residents wear a facemask or face covering, which covers both the nose and mouth during visitation, if medically tolerated.
 - viii. Visitors must wear a face mask or face covering, which covers both the nose and mouth at all times when on the premises of the Facility. Visitors must maintain social distancing, except when assisting with wheelchair mobility. The Facility must have adequate supply of masks on hand for visitors and must make them available to visitors who lack an acceptable face covering.
 - ix. The Facility will provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer, consisting of at least 60 percent (60%) alcohol, to residents, visitors, and representatives of the long-term care ombudsman visiting residents, and those individuals are able to demonstrate appropriate use.
 - x. **No more than 20 percent (20%)** of the residents shall have visitors at any one time and only two visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time. The Facility will design and communicate visitation policies in order to comply with this requirement and schedule such visits. Residents

will be permitted to have only one visiting session per day.

- xi. Visitors under the age of 18 years old MUST be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
 - xii. Current COVID-19 positive residents, residents with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period are not eligible for visits. Residents newly admitted from the hospital may not have a visitor for at least 72 hours from admission.
 - xiii. The Facility will develop a short easy-to-read fact sheet outlining the hours of visitation and visitor expectations including appropriate hand hygiene and face coverings. The fact sheet will be provided upon initial screening to all visitors.
 - xiv. Visitor movement in the facility is limited, including walking around different halls of the facility. Instead, visitors should go directly to the designated visitation area.
 - xv. Visits are scheduled during the designated visiting hours and are limited to a half-hour.
6. Residents may also be assisted to go outdoors with staff supervision. The appropriate infection control and safety and social distancing requirements must be maintained.
 7. The interdisciplinary Team will review the Facility's visiting program's compliance with the NYSDOH Health Advisories.
 8. If any visitor fails to adhere to the protocol, he/she/they will be prohibited from visiting for the duration of the COVID-19 state-declared public health emergency.

It is important that visitors properly follow visitation guidelines to ensure a safe visit for their loved ones and to protect other residents and our front-line workers. Visitors that do not adhere to such guidelines will be asked to leave immediately.

We thank you for your continued patience and support during this unprecedented time. The Facility continues to vigorously follow all CDC, CMS and NYSDOH guidelines to protect our residents and their well-being. We will continue to update our website with any additional recommendations and requirements of the NYSDOH and CMS.