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General Visitation for Guests/Residents

The guests/residents have the right to make choices about aspects of their lives in the center that are significant to the guests/residents. Guests/residents may deny or withdraw consent for visitation at any time. The center will make every effort to facilitate open visitations for all guests/residents as long as those visits occur in a manner that does not place other guests/residents at risk.

Guest /Resident Visitation During a Communicable Disease Outbreak

While taking a person-centered approach and adhering to the core principles of infection prevention, outdoor visitation is preferred during a Communicable Disease Outbreak (such as Covid-19/ Flu, etc.). Outdoor visits pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow. When conducting outdoor visitation, all appropriate infection control and prevention practices should be followed.

Indoor Visitation: Our centers **will allow indoor visitation at all times** and for all guests/residents. Our centers **will not limit** the frequency and length of visits for guests/residents, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits.

Centers will follow CDC guidance and local department of health guidance based on specific communicable disease outbreaks while ensuring guests/residents make informed decisions regarding their health, guest/resident rights and quality of life.

Although there is **no limit on the number of visitors** that a guest/resident can have at one time, visits will be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of infection prevention and does not increase risk to other guests/residents.

Visitors with signs and symptoms of a transmissible infection (fever, flu-like illness, etc.) should avoid visiting until they are no longer infectious (usually 24 hours after resolution of the fever without the need for fever medication).

Visitors are encouraged to limit movement within the center whenever possible during an outbreak. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the center.

If a guest's/resident's roommate is immunocompromised, visits should not be conducted in the guest's/resident's room, if possible. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the guest/resident prevents leaving the room, facilities will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention.



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- Visitors may be required to participate in pre-entry screening based on CDC guidance and/or local department of health guidance during a communicable disease outbreak including having their temperature taken, completing a screening form, performing hand-hygiene, wearing the appropriate PPE based on community rates, receiving on-going education related to Infection Control Practices and risks associated with visiting.
- Face coverings and physical distancing during visits may be required during a communicable disease outbreak as per CDC or local department of health guidance.
- Guests/Residents can choose not to wear face coverings or masks when other residents are not present and have close contact (including touch) with their visitor.
- The center will encourage physical distancing during peak times of visitation and large gatherings to reduce the risks to guests/residents.
- The center **WILL NOT** require visitors to show or provide proof of vaccination or immunization status at any time.
- Consensual physical contact is allowed between visitors and guests.

While not recommended, guests/residents who are on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or quarantine may still receive visitors. In these cases, visits should occur in the guest/resident's room. Before visiting guests/residents, who are on TBP or quarantine, visitors are made aware of the potential risk of visiting and precautions necessary to visit the guest/resident. Visitors must adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.

Centers may offer appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), if available; however, centers are not required to provide PPE for visitors.

Indoor Visitation during a Communicable Disease Outbreak

While it is safer for visitors not to enter the center during an outbreak, visitors will still be allowed in the center. Visitors are made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak and requirement to adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.

Compassionate care visits and essential care givers are allowed at all times. **Centers will not restrict visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause, consistent with 42 CFR § 483.10(f)(4)(v).**



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Visitation allows in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the guests/residents object:

1. End-of-life situations.
2. A guest/resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
3. The guest/resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
4. A guest/resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
5. A guest/resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
6. A guest/resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
7. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
8. Pediatric patients.

Transmission Based Precaution signage will be posted throughout the center during an outbreak to provide instructions for infection prevention for visitors. Hand-hygiene before, during and after visitation will be available throughout the center for all visitors.

If any clinical or safety restrictions or limitations to visitation must be implemented based on CDC or local department of health guidance – those restrictions/limitations will be communicated to the affected guests/residents and/or their responsible party.

If the center's county Covid-19 community transmission is high –everyone in the center should wear face coverings or masks.

The center will provide reminders in common areas for visitors regarding the required infection control practices such as frequent hand-hygiene, physical distancing in large gatherings, PPE usage, mask requirements, etc.

The center will provide guidance (posted signs at entries) about recommended actions for visitors who

- have a positive viral test for Covid-19, or
- have signs and symptoms of Covid-19, or
- had close contact with someone with Covid-19.

Guests/residents have the right to decline/deny personal visitation of their choosing as long as their choice does not negatively impact or infringe on the rights of other guests/residents.



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The center may be locked/secured to maintain safety for guests/residents and team members – visitation access will be available at all times through use of a doorbell type device to facilitate entry into the center. After hours entry signage is posted at all centers.

The Executive Director is the designated person responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to the Visitation and policies and procedures.

References

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, QSO-20-39-NH, Revised 09/23/2022

CDC, Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Pandemic, Updated 09/23/2022

FHCA – Covid-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019, Updates and Information 09/26/2022