

Policy and Procedure: Indoor Visitation

Facility: Washington Senior Living	Approved by: Roger D Herman
Effective: 08/17/2020	Revised: 10/28/2020

This Policy may change or be revised based on CDC/CMS/State Public Health Department changes or recommendations

POLICY:

We are excited to be able to provide family members and friends the opportunity to reunite with their loved ones indoors. Although we wish we could just open our doors and the threat would be over, we must be mindful the threat of COVID-19 is still real. To protect residents, visitors and staff alike, we are taking the utmost precautions to ensure the safety of all. In accordance with state and federal guidelines, visitors will be required to social distance, wear masks, and make appointments. Schedule is based on available staff, space, and time. Each visit is limited to no more than 2 visitors from the same household.

Outdoor visits will be prioritized as long as the weather cooperates and space permits. As we go forward, we will constantly evaluate our visitation policy and adjust as necessary to reflect current conditions in our facility and the community. The Facility must be in phase 3 according to CDC. Indoor visits are limited to common areas (exceptions: bed-bound patients, end-of-life situations).

The following is the procedure to allow indoor visitation for residents and their loved ones.

PROCEDURE:

- A schedule of visitation days and hours must be established, time limits will be established.
 - Our facility's schedule will be 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- This facility has a maximum number of 10 visitors allowed in a single day.
- Visitations will be supervised by a staff member during each visit to ensure the use of face coverings, hand hygiene, and 6 ft of social distancing are being met.
- Visits will be timed and can last up to 30 minutes
- Only two (2) visitations will be scheduled per designated area in order to adhere to social distancing which is 6 feet apart between any two people.
- The facility must post signage in the designated visitation area:
 - Maximum occupancy
 - Cue six-foot separation, face covering, hand hygiene
- This facility must ensure that a minimum distancing of six feet is achievable in the indoor space when determining the maximum number of residents and visitors who can simultaneously occupy the indoor space.

- This facility must clearly communicate and enforce social distancing of six feet between the resident and all visitors.
- For the duration of each visit, the resident and visitor must wear a surgical mask or face covering.
- Adequate staff must be present to allow for personnel to help with the transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and wiping down visitation areas after each family, partner or friendship visit.
- Areas where visitors and residents sit must be wiped down between visitations using an approved antiviral disinfectant - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>. Allow extra time between appointments to allow for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Residents receiving visitors must also be screened with the CDC symptom checklist prior to visitor's arrival
- There must be adequate PPE to permit residents, if they are able to comply, to wear a face mask during visitation. Visitors must bring their own face masks for visitation to not draw down on the facility's stock.
- Facility must provide alcohol-based hand rub to families visiting residents and demonstrate how to use it appropriately if necessary
- Facility may establish additional guidelines as needed to ensure the safety of visitations and their facility's operations
- Residents who are on isolation due to a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 or are symptomatic and suspected of having COVID-19, but have yet to test positive, may not participate in indoor visitation.
- Prioritization for visitation should be for residents with diseases that cause progressive cognitive decline (e.g., Alzheimer's disease) and residents expressing feelings of loneliness. Loneliness can have deleterious consequences, including increased risk of depression, suicidal thoughts, aggressive behaviors, and anxiety.
- In-room visitation is permissible for bedbound patients or for end-of-life and other compassionate care situations, provided that:
 - Post signage to cue six-foot separation, face covering, and hand hygiene
 - Post maximum number of resident and visitors that can occupy the area
 - Set up dispenser for alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)
 - Room layout allows at least six-foot separation from the resident
 - Consider marking the floor or ground to show how visitors can place themselves with at least six-foot separation
 - If six-foot separation is not possible due to room layout, then visitation is only permissible if a transparent room divider is in place between visitors and resident, at least one foot higher than the height of the tallest visitor.

Visitor Criteria:

- Visitors are only allowed in the location designated for the visit, not in other areas of the facility. Restroom access is restricted
- Visitors must schedule an appointment with the facility to visit a resident

- Visitation will be coordinated by the Activities Dept.
- Visitor will wait in their car until it is time for their visit. Then they must wait for a phone call to come to the designated area: Northwest entrance by Activities Room.
- Visitation must be limited to two visitors at a time per resident, **same household**
- Visitors displaying symptoms should not visit the facility
- Visitors must wear a face covering or mask during the entire visitation
- Visitors must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visitation
- Visitors must stay in designated visiting location
- The facility will prescreen visitors via phone with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) symptom checklist not more than 24 hours in advance.
- On arrival, visitors must be **verbally** screened for signs and symptoms of COVID, including a temperature check (non-contact temperature check). Their answers will be recorded and records will be kept
- Visitors will have their temperature taken and will not be allowed to enter if it is over 99.9°F
- Visitors must not have signs or symptoms of COVID-19; visitors must also attest to their COVID status (if testing results) and if they have had COVID-19, they must provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note) that they no longer meet CDC criteria for transmission-based precautions.
- Visitors must register to facilitate contact tracing
- Visitors must review and sign the Waiver of Liability relating to COVID-19
- Visitors are to be notified upon entry that if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 within 3 days after visiting, they must immediately notify the facility.
- If social distancing is not adhered to, the visitors will be asked to end the visit
- Visitation should be restricted to children 12 years of age or older. Visitors with children must be able to manage them, and children must be able to wear a face mask during the entire visitation. Special family circumstances warranting children under the age of 12 to visit can be approved on an individual basis.
- Visitors may provide food and beverage to the resident consistent with dietary considerations but eating and drinking during the visit is PROHIBITED.

The facility would still retain the right to deny indoor visitation if they believe:

1. Circumstances pose a risk of transmitting COVID-19 to the facility;
2. Either the resident or visitors might be at risk of harm;
3. Visitors do not adhere to protocol outlined in policy
4. Staffing cannot accommodate visitations safely.

Resources & References:

- State of Illinois – IDPH: Updated Interim Guidance for Nursing Homes and Other Long-Term Care Facilities and Programs: Phased Reopening. Version 3