



## **VISITATION AND INFECTION CONTROL POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**Revised and updated: 8/23/23**

**Policy:** The intent of this policy is to ensure that Residents have access to visitors of their choice while maintaining infection control policies that support and environment free of communicable infections.

This facility is in support of the legislation passed in the 2022 legislative session and signed by Governor into law (408.823 Florida Statutes) and will comply with the tenets of this rule.

### **Procedures:**

- All residents who live in this facility will be encouraged to have visitors who support their physical and/or mental well-being. Residents maintain the right to make decisions as to whom they want to see (or not). With the exception of legal guardians or local, state or federal authorities, residents have the right to refuse visitors, including those residents with cognitive impairment. Facility staff will honor those decisions. A resident's legal guardian, if legally designated, may also be involved in making these decisions if a resident's well being is in question, and the resident is not able to express their own wishes.
- **This facility has set up visiting hours that support resident's needs and the security of the facility. These hours are from 9:00am to 9:00pm. Residents also have the right to "unrestricted private communication, including receiving and sending unopened correspondence, access to a telephone and visiting with any person of his or her choice". There is no time limit in place on length of visits, as long as the rights and comfort of other residents are not compromised and the resident being visited consents to the continuation of the visit.**



- Variances to these hours may be made by the facility for a resident or resident representative for an Essential Caregiver or another visitor who is not able to visit during normal visiting hours with the agreement of the resident/resident representative and provider.

An Essential Caregiver is designated by the resident or resident representative. This may or may not be someone who provides physical care to the resident. Provider will not require an Essential to provide care but will allow them to assist resident if they are able and choose to do so.

- Visitors are asked to respect the privacy and personal needs of the resident and roommate (in a shared room). If in a shared room, visitors are asked to meet in another area of the home (living room, back or front porch ect), if other resident is resting or ill or requests other arrangements be made. **There is not a limit on the number of visitors a resident may have. The facility will work with residents and visitors to accommodate visitors as much as possible and may request visits take place in an area outside of the residents room if there is another resident living in the bedroom as well,. Visitors are encouraged to communicate with the facility staff ahead of time, if possible, if a larger space will be needed to accommodate a larger group. The facility will gladly work with the family to provide a space and supplies for special events (ie, birthday parties ect).**
- Visitation is allowed in all the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
  - a) End-Of-Life situations
  - b) Someone with whom the resident was living with prior to living at current facility, particularly if resident is struggling with the change of environment.
  - c) Resident is faced with making major medical decisions
  - d) Resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently passed.



- e) Resident who needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
- f) Resident who used to talk and interact with other and is currently seldom speaking.
- g) Other situations with family/friends where a resident will have the opportunity to have a social interaction with a community or family member.
- **This facility will ensure that there is Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) available for Visitors to utilize during their visit if visitor desires. The facility will have masks, hand sanitizer, gloves and gowns available for use as needed to protect visitor or resident if situation warrants. PPE will not be required for consensual physical contact between residents and visitors, nor is there a restriction on consensual physical contact.**
- **The facility does not mandate vaccinations, but will be screening all visitors upon entry to the facility for signs and symptoms including temperature and any current symptoms that might pose a contagion concern, and reserves the right to request visitor(s) to reschedule visit or wear additional PPE if exhibiting a fever or other symptoms, in order to protect health of residents of facility who may be immune-compromised as function of age or health status.**
- **Facility will post information at the entry of the facility regarding this policy so that it is easily accessible for residents and visitors. Providers will explain policy to residents and responsible parties upon admission and when necessary.**

**INFORMATION REGARDING INFECTION CONTROL FOR VISITORS WILL BE MADE AVAILABEL AT THE SIGN IN AREA.**

- Facility will communicate with resident and resident representatives as needed to ascertain whom shall be designated as an Essential Caregiver. This will be documented in the resident record and shared with facility staff.



- In a situation where 1 or more residents have to be isolated due to illness which may be communicable, visitors will be asked to wear a mask, use gloves and/or hand sterilizer and if visiting with a symptomatic resident, wear a protective gown. This will be determined by the facility administrator upon change in status of resident and confirmed by residents personal physician.
- **Unless contraindicated by the resident's personal physician there are no restrictions on visitors having contact with resident (such as hugs, holding hands ect). Sexual behaviors is not covered in this policy. Again, if there is a suspicion of infection or signs/symptoms of infection, facility may request PPE be worn to protect during the visit.**
- If the Facility maintains a website, visitation policies and procedures will be posted to their site in a page accessible either on or from the home page.
- This policy is subject to the direction and oversight from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Department of Health and other Authorities Having Jurisdiction in the event of an emergent event either site, community or state specific.
- This policy and procedure will be part of training for new employees as well as resident/resident representatives' new admission orientation. **This facility Administrator is responsible for ensuring that the facility staff and operation are in compliance with these procedures and ongoing training of staff to the policy.**
- Facility reserves the right to suspend in-person visitation for a specific visitor if the visitor violates the provider's policies and procedures.
- Nothing in this Policy and Procedure has any effect on those local, state, and federal authorities having access to the facility or the resident as required by the regulations or statute.