



3 Pennsylvania Place Ottumwa, Iowa 52501 641-683-3372

Visitation Policy

All visitation should take place following the core principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention, which includes but is not limited to:

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19 or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. All visitors will be screened for any of these exclusions
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing of 6 feet between people.

In addition to the above, the facility will also ensure that cleaning and disinfection of high-frequency touched surfaces get cleaned frequently and designated visitation areas after each visit. Staff will use appropriate personal protective equipment and the facility will maintain a designated COVID-19 unit for any positive residents. All staff will be tested for COVID-19 per CMS guidelines.

The facility will place instructional signage around facility.

Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention should not be permitted to visit or may be asked to leave.

Visitation Types

Outdoor Visitation

Outdoor visitation is preferred when the resident and/or visitor are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow. Weather considerations (inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality or an individual's health status may hinder outdoor visits.

Indoor Visitation:

Facility will allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents as permitted under regulations. The facility will not place any limit on the frequency or length of visits for residents, the number of visitors or require advance scheduling of visits.

Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits will still be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principle of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to the other residents.

Facility will ensure that physical distancing can still be maintained during peak times of visitation (during meal times, after business hours). The facility will avoid any large gatherings where large numbers of visitors are in the same space at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Movement throughout the facility will be limited. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.

Areas that could be used for visitation will include the dining room (outside of meal times), conference room, back lounge, front lounge or resident's room.

If a resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible.

The facility continues to encourage use of a well-fitting facemask for all visitors and residents as a form of source control during any in person visitation.

While not recommended, residents who are on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or quarantine can still receive visitors. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident's room and the resident will be encouraged to wear a well-fitting facemask if tolerated. Any visitor visiting a resident on TBP or quarantine will be made aware of potential risk of exposure and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident.

Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak Investigation

An outbreak investigation is initiated when a new nursing home onset case of COVID-19 occurs (in staff or residents). The facility will perform baseline testing as soon as possible after detection of a new case.

While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors will be allowed in the facility based on CMS guidelines. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and will adhere to the core principles of infection prevention, including wearing a well-fitting face mask, regardless of vaccination status and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room.

Visitor Testing and Vaccination

Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated as a condition of visitation. If the visitor declines to disclose their vaccination status, the visitor should wear a face covering or mask at times while in facility.

Testing may be offered to visitors wishing to be tested prior to visitation if testing supplies are adequate.

Compassionate Care Visits

Compassionate care visits will be allowed at all times.

Resident Outings

Residents may leave the facility as they choose. Should a resident choose to leave, the facility should remind the resident and any individual accompanying the resident to following all recommended infection prevention practices including wearing a face covering or mask, physical distancing, and hand hygiene and to encourage those around them to the same.

Upon the resident's return, the facility will take the following actions:

- Residents will be screened upon return for signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
- If the resident or family member reports possible close contact to an individual with COVID-19 while outside of the nursing home, the resident will be tested for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. The resident will be placed in quarantine if the resident has not been fully vaccinated.
- If the resident develops signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after the outing, the resident will be tested for COVID-19 and placed the in Transmission-Based Precautions regardless of vaccination status.
- An unvaccinated resident without signs or symptoms may be tested at the facility's discretion if leaving the nursing home frequently or out of the facility for a prolonged length of time, such as 24 hours.
- Residents will be monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 daily.

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