

Acadia Center for Nursing + Rehabilitation

Administration Policy and Procedure

Subject: Facility Visitation Plan

Effective: July 15, 2020

Revised: September 17, 2020

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BACKGROUND:

On March 13, 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) issued guidance to nursing homes limiting visitation to medically necessary or end-of-life services.

On July 10, 2020, DOH revised guidance to permit outside visitation, and limited indoor visitation and activities, if the nursing home met specific benchmarks and developed a reopening plan via the NY Forward Safety Plan.

Once the following criteria are met, the nursing home may resume visitation:

1. The region in which the nursing home is located is in Phase 3.
2. The facility is in compliance with all state and federal requirements for COVID-related regulations, executive orders, surveillance, and data reporting.
3. The facility has procedures in place to separate COVID-positive and non-positive residents.
4. The facility completed and submitted the NY Forward Safety Plan.
5. The facility has no staffing shortages, as evidenced by the facility's staffing plan.
6. The absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or residents for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days.
7. The facility has access to adequate testing for residents and staff, as per guidelines.
8. The facility has an executed and operationalized arrangement with laboratories to process SARS-COV-2 virus tests. As recommended by the CMS, the tests used should be able to detect SARS-COV-2 virus with greater than 95% sensitivity, greater than 90% specificity, with results obtained and rapidly reported to the nursing home.
9. Continued daily monitoring and screening of resident, staff, and visitors. Resident monitoring must include daily symptom checks, vital signs, and pulse oximetry.
10. A copy of the facility's formal visitation plan is posted on its public website and broadcasted via email or social media to provide visitors with clear guidelines for visiting and to announce if and when visitation is paused due to an increase in the number of residents and/or staff with a confirmed positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

PROCEDURE:

1: Location of visits:

- Facility visitation will be conducted in the outdoor courtyard, weather permitting;
- In inclement weather, such as high heat or foul weather and as facility space allows, visitation will be inside, in the main dining room.
- With no more than ten (10) individuals who are social distanced and wearing facemask / face covering while in the presence of others will be allowed in the visiting areas. This may include residents visiting each other.

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2: Reservation and scheduling:

- Visits are for thirty (30) minutes. They are to be scheduled in advance and shall be scheduled by the admissions staff in one (1) hour time slots to allow time to return residents to their units, and to sanitize visiting area between visits.
- A visitation schedule will be provided to all units a day in advance of visitation day and updated, as needed, for changes.(Attachment A)
- No more than ten percent (10%) of the residents shall have visitors on any day and only two visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time;
- Visitors under the age of 18 are allowed but must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
- 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;
- Each visitor must present a **verified** negative COVID-19 test result within the last week (7 days).

A visitor's failure to present such negative test result documentation will be refused visitation.

3: Screening & Monitoring:

- The facility will assign staff to assist with the transporting of residents, monitoring of visitation for appropriate infection control and safety and social distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- The facility will assign staff to screen all visitors for the presence of a **verified** negative COVID-19 test result and 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 and/or does not present a verified negative COVID-19 test result within the last week (7 days). This will include temperature checks and screening questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19, international travel and to states designated under the Commissioner's travel advisory. The facility shall maintain documentation of visitor's verified negative COVID-19 test result, as well as screening questions asked onsite in an electronic format and make it available upon the request of the Department of Health. (Attachment B)
- Visitors and residents must wear a facemask or face covering (must always cover both the nose and mouth when on the premises of the facility). Masks will be available for residents.
- Visitors are not permitted to bring in items during visitation (i.e. food, beverage, flowers,ect.);
- Visiting areas will have easily accessible alcohol-based hand rub, for residents, visitors, and staff;
- 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.

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4: Visitor Education

- The facility will post signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene and use applicable floor markings for social distancing.
- The facility will provide and post a fact sheet outlining visitor expectations including appropriate hand hygiene and face coverings. The fact sheet will be provided upon initial screening to all visitors and posted on the facility website. (Attachment C).

5: Visitor's Log Sheet:

- A visitors log sheet will be kept for all visitors that includes: (Attachment D)
- First and last name of the visitor;
- Physical (street) address of the visitor;
- Daytime and evening telephone number;
- Date and time of visit;
- Email address, if available; and
- As per NYSDOH, a notation indicating the individual cleared the screening that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.

On a weekly basis, the Administrative Assistant will scan and save each visitor's log sheet and verified proof of negative COVID-19 test result to a visitor data base.

6: Room Visits:

At this time, visitation is strictly prohibited in resident rooms or care areas with few exceptions such as, end of life visits, or residents who are bed bound. In those instances, all other requirements listed in the Facility Visitation Plan apply, except that visitors for terminally ill residents do not need to be tested for COVID-19.

For residents who are bed bound, alternative methods of visitation will be used, such as through videoconferencing, through Skype, or FaceTime as much as possible. Limited visitation may be permitted but must adhere to the same requirements for other visitors as much as possible. Visitors will be escorted to the patient room and not any other areas in the facility.

7: Review of Visitation Plan

- The IDT Team will review the Facility Visitation Program and monitor for any needed adjustments and report to the QA Committee, as needed.