

Visitors Guidelines Fact Sheet

1. Recommended visitation hours will be from 10am until 8pm. Although, there is no limit to the number of visitors, visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principals of COVID-19.
 - a) Visits will occur in the resident rooms, outside in the courtyard (weather permitting), or in designated area in the facility.
 - b) For semi-private rooms with a roommate, we ask you limit the number of visitors to 2 at a time. For larger groups, please schedule your visit with Social Services ext. 144/147.
 - c) We strongly encourage use of masks or face coverings while visiting your loved one. Regardless of the community transmission level, residents and their visitors when alone in the resident's room or in a designated visitation area, may choose not to wear face coverings or masks and may choose to have close contact (including touch). Residents (or their representative) and their visitors should be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit. If a roommate is present during the visit, the visitor must wear a face covering or mask.
 - d) Screening shall consist of both temperature checks and asking screening questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19 which shall include questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms.
 - e) Documentation must include the following for each visitor to the nursing home: first and last name of the visitor; physical (street) address of the visitor; daytime and evening telephone number; date and time of visit, and email address, if available.
 - f) Visitation shall be person-centered, consider the resident's physical, mental and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life. Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit or will be asked to leave. Visitation can occur safely based on the below guidelines.
 - g) The facility will adhere to screening protocol for all staff during each shift.

2. Location of visits:**Outdoor Visits:**

While taking a person-centered approach and adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, outdoor visitation is preferred even when the resident and visitor are up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.

- 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 the resident's room. For residents with a roommate, they may each have two (2) visitors at a time. Larger groups will be arranged in a designated area by Social Services ext. 144/147

- Facilities shall permit residents to leave the facility as they choose. Should a resident choose to leave, the facility shall remind the resident and any individual accompanying the resident to follow all recommended infection prevention practices including wearing a face covering or mask, physical distancing, and hand hygiene and to encourage those around them to do the same.
- Resident trips out of the facility require an MD order, and the family/individual transporting the resident must complete safe car transfer training with PT/OT, if applicable.

Indoor Visits:

The facility shall allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents (regardless of vaccination status)

- 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.
- Facility will verify that visitors have received a negative SARS-COV-2 test result within one day prior to visitation for antigen tests and within two (2) days prior to visitation for PCR tests. The facility shall provide antigen tests, at no cost, for all visitors. This does not apply to compassionate caregiving visitors life or in the instance of a significant mental, physical or social decline or crisis of a resident, nor should it apply to emergency medical services (EMS) personnel.
- During peak times of visitation and large gatherings (e.g., parties, events) the facility shall encourage physical distancing.
- All visitors two (2) years or older and able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask shall continue to be required to wear a face covering/mask during visitation, regardless of vaccination status.
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and social distancing at least six feet apart between persons, in accordance with CDC guidance.
- Visitors should wear face covering or masks when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitation for all residents as permitted under the regulations except for certain situations when the visit is limited to compassionate care. Such as, all temporary visitation pauses will occur only under the express direction of the NUSDOH.
- Facility shall limit movement in the facility, including limiting visitors from walking around different halls of the facility. Instead, visitors should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.
- Visitation for residents under Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP) and/or quarantine is allowed, but not recommended. If visitation is to occur in these cases, the visit should occur in the resident's room and the resident should wear a well-fitting facemask (if tolerated). Before visiting residents, who are TBP or quarantine, visitors should be made aware of the potential risks of visiting and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident and wear a well-fitting facemask.
- For any resident under TBP and/or quarantine window visits will also be made available.
- When/If a new case of COVID-19 is identified among residents or staff, the facility will immediately begin outbreak testing.

3. Indoor Visitation During an Outbreak:

An outbreak exists when a new nursing home onset of COVID-19 occurs (i.e. a new COVID-19 case among residents or staff). With the appropriate safeguards, visitation can still occur when there is an outbreak. When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, Acadia Center shall immediately begin outbreak testing.

In addition, the New York State Department of Health issued emergency regulations regarding Personal and Compassionate Caregivers in Skilled Nursing Facilities. (See Personal and Compassionate Caregiving Visitors Policy & Procedure)

- While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors will still be allowed in the facility. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
- If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation they should wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status.
- The facility will assign staff to assist with the transporting of residents, monitoring of visitation for appropriate infection control, safety and social distancing. Cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using and EPA- approved disinfectant.
- The facility will provide COVID-19 rapid testing to visitors.
 - a) Families may resume laundering the residents clothing (we still recommend getting all clothing labeled)
 - b) Visiting areas, (ex resident rooms) will have easily accessible alcohol-based hand rub, for residents, visitors and staff.

4. **Potential Visit Related Exposures:**

If a visitor to the facility tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by a diagnostic test and the visit to the facility occurred from two days before the visitor's symptom onset (or in the 2 days before the date of collection of the positive sample for visitors who remained asymptomatic) to the end of the visitor's isolation period, there is a potential for exposure. **Any visitor who tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 within this time frame must notify the facility as soon as possible.**

5. The facility will maintain signage regarding face mask utilization and hand hygiene and uses applicable floor markings to cue social distancing delineations.
6. Facilities will provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer consisting of at least 60 percent (60%) alcohol, to residents, visitors, and representatives of the long-term care ombudsman prior to visiting the residents and in resident rooms. Rub hands together using friction.
7. The facility will continue to provide other methods to meet the social and emotional needs of residents, such as video calls and window visits;
8. Specialty practitioners, podiatrist, and dental services may continue with strict adherence to infection control guidelines.