



## **Policy and Procedure**

**Topic:** Visitation Plan and Policy during a Pandemic

**Effective Date:** 7/10/2020

**Revised:** 9/15/2020

### **Policy:**

In conjunction with NYSDOH memo of July 10, 2020 and our Covid-19 Management plan, the following policy will be followed for the safe return of Visitors for our Residents.

The Facility will follow all NYSDOH and CMS guidelines to ensure appropriate Infection Control and to minimize any transmission risk. This includes the latest revised guidance from NYSDOH issued September 15, 2020 and effective September 17, 2020.

### **Procedure:**

1. Facility Criteria in conjunction with DOH mandates has been met:
  - a. The Facility has entered Phase 3 in the community
  - b. Absence of any new nursing home onset of COVID-19 in the nursing home as reported to the Department on the daily HERDS survey and as reported weekly to the NHSN for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days.
  - c. The Facility attests that the NH is in full compliance with all State and Federal requirements, State Executive Orders and guidance, State reporting requirements; including COVID-19 Focus IC Survey, HERDS and staff testing surveys, as well as federally required submission of COVID-19 data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).
  - d. The facility has access to adequate testing. The facility has a testing plan in place that, at a minimum, ensures that all consenting residents have received a single baseline COVID-19 test. In addition, the facility has the capability to test, or can arrange for testing of, all residents upon identification of any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If a staff member tests positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the facility has the capacity to continue weekly re-testing of all nursing home residents until all residents' test negative.
  - e. All of our Staff have been tested and testing continues weekly with directives for immediate furlough for any staff members who may test positive.
  - f. All Staff continue to be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID virus daily.
  - g. All residents will be monitored daily for temperature, oxygen saturation levels, breath sounds and COVID signs/symptoms.

2. The Facility has protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive COVID, negative COVID, unknown COVID and new admissions/re-admissions for observation. At this time, we are COVID free. **(if applicable)**
3. The Facility has submitted to NYSDOH our specific Plan for visitors and has received approval.
4. All staff have been educated on this Policy, and the contents of the DOH 9/15/2020 memo for compliance and implementation.
5. All visitation shall be suspended and the NYSDOH notified immediately if there are any changes in our plan, i.e. positive case of COVID – 19 identified, or changes in mitigation.
6. No food or drinks shall be allowed during visits.
7. All visitation areas shall be disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant after each visit.
8. A copy of the facility's formal visitation plan is posted to their 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 confirmed positive COVID-19 diagnosis.
9. 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.
- 10. Visitors under the age of 18 years old are prohibited from visiting residents at this time.**
11. An executed and operationalized arrangement with laboratories to process SARS-CoV-2 virus tests. The test used should be able to detect SARS-CoV-2 virus (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with greater than 95% sensitivity, greater than 90% specificity, with results obtained and rapidly reported to the nursing home.

**The Following Guidelines and Criteria will be followed:**

- a. All families and residents have been made aware of the revised NYSDOH September 15, 2020 guidance by phone call, email and/or public website.
- b. Visitation will be limited to outdoor areas, weather permitting and under certain circumstances in an inside, well ventilated space with no more than ten individuals who are appropriately socially distanced and wear a facemask or face covering while in the presence of others.
- c. Visitors, including long-term care ombudsman, will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access. Additionally, all visitors must present a verified negative test result within the last week (7 days) and visitation will be refused if the individual(s) fails to present such negative test result, exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms, or does not pass screening questions.**
- d. Visiting will be allowed on a developed schedule. The current schedule will be as follows: Monday through Sunday, 10:30am – 5:00pm weather permitting.
- e. The number of visitors to the nursing home must not exceed ten percent (10%) of the resident census at any time and only two visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time.

- f. The Facility will have a designated area for visitation where social distancing can be monitored and enforced for safety. The designated location currently will be the outside patio.
- g. The facility maintains signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene, and applicable floor markings to cue social distancing delineations.
  
- h. The facility has posted an easy to read fact sheet outlining visitor expectations including appropriate hand hygiene and face coverings. The fact sheet will be provided upon initial screening to all visitors.
- i. Visitation is strictly prohibited in resident rooms or care areas with few exceptions such as situations referenced below and end of life visits. In those instances, all other requirements listed in this policy apply.  
For residents who are bed bound we will continue to use alternative methods of visitation 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 must go to the patient room and not any other areas in the facility.
- j. All Visitors must wear a mask at all times during their visit, practice hand hygiene and social distancing during the duration of their visit.
- k. Residents may be assisted to go outdoors with staff supervision and the appropriate infection control, safety and social distancing requirements maintained.
- l. All visitors must sign in on a Visitors Log for validation, as well as sign out for validation and security.
- m. Documentation of screening must be maintained onsite in electronic format:
  - i. First and last name of the visitor;
  - ii. Physical (street) address of the visitor;
  - iii. Daytime and evening telephone number;
  - iv. Date and time of visit; and
  - v. Email address, if available; and
  - vi. A notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.
- n. All visitors will be educated on our safety plan and visitation policy.
- o. The facility will have a PPE cart stationed on the patio during visiting hours.
- p. Tables will be set up at least 6 feet apart so as to ensure proper social distancing. All visitors must maintain at least 6 feet distance from the resident they are visiting and no physical contact will be allowed.
- q. Social Services will be responsible to arrange and set up visitor appointments and communicate with families as needed.
- r. 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.

Resumption of existing construction projects, and specifically, those projects directly impacting the lives of nursing home residents that were previously approved by the NYSDOH with submission of and approval by the Department of a revised mitigation/prevention plan outlining at a minimum, testing, screening, PPE use, distance from residents, etc.

**Under no circumstance such resumption of a renovation or construction project(s) in or adjacent to a functioning and occupied dedicated COVID unit.**