

## Visiting Guidelines

Visiting with loved ones is of the utmost importance for our residents.

This visiting policy is guided by the following principles:

- Safety – Any approach to visiting must balance the health and safety needs of residents, staff, and visitors, and ensure risks are mitigated.
- Emotional Well-Being – Allowing visitors is intended to support the emotional well-being of residents by reducing any potential negative impacts related to social isolation.
- Equitable Access – All residents must be given equitable access to receive visitors, consistent with their preferences and within reasonable restrictions that safeguard residents.
- Flexibility – The physical/infrastructure characteristics of the home, its staffing availability, whether the home is in an outbreak and the current status of the home with respect to personal protective equipment (PPE) are all variables to take into account when setting home-specific policies.
- Equality – Residents have the right to choose their visitors. In addition, residents and/or their substitute decision-makers have the right to designate caregivers

### Non-Outbreak

All visitors are allowed to visit including essential caregivers and general visitors when the facility is not in an outbreak.

Children under 2 do not need to wear a mask, but should still pass the screening questions.

All other visitors, essential caregivers, volunteers, and support staff must wear a mask and self screen upon entering the facility.

If there is a larger group please give the home some advance notice to ensure there is enough space to accommodate the group.

Visitors may remove their mask if they are in a private space with their loved ones **BUT** they must replace the mask if other staff or residents enter the area.

For a meal please give the home advance notice to ensure that there is availability.

## **Outbreak:**

All general visitors are postponed while the home is in a COVID-19 outbreak.

All essential caregivers are still allowed to visit and must self screen at the door and wear a mask.

If they are visiting a loved one who is in isolation they must wear the appropriate PPE before entering the room.

ALL visitors regardless of if the home is in an outbreak or not are not to enter the facility if they have any respiratory or gastro symptoms. They must return home and complete a Rapid Response Antigen test and should remain away until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours or they have 2 negative Rapid Antigen tests in 24 hours.

Regardless of outbreak status of the facility, if a resident is deemed palliative or critically ill all visitors are permitted.

Masks will continue to be worn prior to entering the facility by all who are entering.