

Visitation Guidelines	Subject: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
Effective: 7/15/20	Revised: 9/17/20

POLICY

It is the of this facility to begin visitation for residents, families and resident representatives while ensuring safety and adherence to infection prevention strategies to minimize any potential spread of infection. This will be done in accordance with all state and federal guidance for the prevention of COVID-19.

PURPOSE

To promote and enhance resident quality of life by implementing visitation to combat psychological impacts of isolation from family and representatives.

NYSDOH CRITERIA (revised 9 17 20)

Nursing Homes may conduct **limited visitation and activities under the following revised NYSDOH guidelines.**

The facility is in full compliance with all state and federal requirements, state Executive Orders and guidance, state reporting requirements including COVID-19 focus surveys, HERDS and staff testing surveys, and federally required submission of COVID-19 data to the NHSN.

1. The facility has protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staff teams to deal with COVID-positive residents and nonpositive residents.
2. The facility has completed the NY Forward Safety Plan and submitted a copy of the complete plan to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov. The facility must retain a copy of the plan at the facility where it is accessible and immediately available upon request of the Department or local health department.
 - a. The plan must clearly articulate the space(s) to be used for visitation (outdoors and indoors) including the number of visitors and residents which could be safely socially distanced within the space
3. The absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or residents as reported to the Department on the daily HERDS and staff testing surveys and as reported weekly to the NHSN for a period of **no less than fourteen (14) days.**
4. Adherence to written screening protocols for all staff during each shift, each resident daily, and all persons entering the facility or grounds of the facility, including visitors. Visitors must present a verified negative COVID test result within the last 7 days prior to visit. Facility must validate lab report with visitor name / date test taken and result on screening form. Visitors may be asked for ID as needed. The 7-day time frame is from the date the test was taken not the date of result.
5. Documentation of screening will be maintained in an electronic format and available upon request of the NYSDOH.

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6. Resident monitoring must include daily symptom checks, vital signs, and pulse oximetry.
7. 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.
8. Limited visitation, including, but not limited to, family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations will be permitted only with a negative test 7 days prior to visit (see above).
9. For end of life and compassionate care visits a negative test result is not required.
10. For residents that are bed bound facility will allow limited visitation is permitted in accordance with above screening requirements. No more than two family members will be allowed in resident room for 30-minute visit.

PROCEDURE:

- Facility visitation will be conducted in outdoor area, weather permitting.
- In inclement weather such as high heat and as facility space allows visitation will be inside, in a well-ventilated space with no more than 10 individuals who are social distanced and wearing a facemask / face covering while in the presence of other. This may include residents visiting each other.
- For residents that are bed-bound, Social Work will make appointments following the above requirements for an in room visit. Families will be escorted to residents' room.
- Visits will be made in advance and scheduled by Social Work.
 - The facility will assign staff to assist with the transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant.
 - The facility will post signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene and uses applicable floor markings for social distancing.
 - The facility will screen all visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and validate the visitors negative COVID test within 7 days of visiting prior to resident access. Visitation will be refused if the individual(s) does not have a negative COVID test within 7 days or if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. This will include temperature checks and screening questions to assess potential

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exposure to COVID-19, international travel and to states designated under the Commissioner's travel advisory. The facility must maintain screening question asked onsite in an electronic format and make it available upon the Department's request.

- A log will be kept for all visitors that includes:
 - 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;
 - Date of Negative COVID test within 7 days of visit;
 - As per NYSDOH a notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.
- 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 hand for visitors as needed.
- Visiting areas will have easily accessible alcohol-based hand rub, for residents, visitors, and staff.
- Visitors under 18 must be accompanied by an adult and be able to wear face mask/face covering.
- **No more than 10 percent** of the residents shall have visitors at any one time and only two visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time.
- 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.
- 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.
- Residents will also be assisted to go outdoors with staff supervision weather permitting. The appropriate infection control and safety and social distancing requirements must be maintained.
- The IDT Team will review the Visiting program and monitor for any needed adjustments and report to QA Committee as needed.
- 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.