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**New Visitation Guidance**

We are very excited to announce that based on new guidance from the State of Texas Health and Human Services Commission, we are changing our visitation policies and procedures. <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2021/letters/PL2021-08.pdf>

We look forward to seeing more of you and hoping you will take advantage of this change to visit your loved ones in our home. It’s been a very long 12 months for our residents, families and staff. We would enjoy it if you gave us the opportunity to capture these reunions of families and residents in a photo so we can show our community just how much visitation means to our residents, families and staff.

**General Changes**

1) A negative COVID test is no longer required for visitors, however, we encourage visitors to be regularly tested for the safety of all our visitors and residents.

2) **All visits must be scheduled** through our CareFeed online system or you can call the facility to schedule a time to visit. The reason for visits needing to be scheduled is that we must have time to disinfect the rooms where visits occur both before and after visits. Only 2 visitors are allowed to visit a specific resident at the same time. Visits can be scheduled in 1-hour increments.

3) We are limiting the number of visitors in the facility at any given time to 4 at this time.

4) At this time, visitation can be scheduled for between the hours of **8:00am and 4:00pm, 7 days per week**. If you have a specific reason that you are unable to come at these times, an exception **may** be made by the Administrator for special circumstances.

**Types of Visitation**

1) **Essential Caregivers** – Essential Caregivers must first complete Infection Prevention training and sign off on the Essential Caregiver Agreement. Essential Caregivers will have a file located at the front desk. A staff member is required to verify the identity of the Essential Caregiver at entry. This information must be documented inside the Essential Caregiver’s folder, in addition to the time of arrival and time of departure. **Essential Caregivers must wear an N95 at all times in the facility if visiting a resident on Hall 100. Essential Caregivers must wear an N95, face shield and gown at all times in the facility if visiting a resident on Hall 200.** Essential Caregivers are allowed to have physical contact with the resident regardless of COVID status.

2) **End-Of-Life Visits** – Residents can have visitors when they are designated to be at end-of-life. This designation is determined by the Interdisciplinary Team (Administrator, DON, ADON, Social Worker and Physician). We will follow the guidelines given us by Texas HHSC. End-of-Life visits can occur regardless of COVID status. End-of Life visitors may have physical contact with the resident regardless of the vaccination status of the resident. **End-of-Life Visitors must wear the appropriate PPE at all times while in the facility.**

3) **General Visitation** – For resident visitors who are not Essential Caregivers, the following applies. The Visitor must pass the Pre-Admission Screener. General Visitors can only visit a resident on Hall 100. **General Visitors must wear an N95 at all times while in the facility.** If the resident has been VACCINATED, the visitor can have physical contact with the resident as long as both the resident and visitor are wearing a mask (N95 for visitor and procedure mask for resident). The definition for VACCIANTED is 2 weeks after the second dose of a 2-dose vaccine. If the resident is UNVACCINATED, the visitor and resident must maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times. General Visitation can be in a resident’s room if spacing allows for social distancing, in a separate indoor visitation area or in an outdoor area of the facility.

**Violation of Visitation Rules/Guidance**

If a visitor violates any of the guidance provided to them in regards to wearing an N95 and maintaining 6-feet of distance of an UNVACCINATED resident, staff will need to remind them of the issue. If this occurs a second time, staff are allowed to tell the visitor they must leave the facility and talk to the Administrator before returning for visitation in the future. The reason for this is that we are required to abide by the guidance put forth by the State of Texas and must do this. We are not trying to be rude or prevent you from visiting your loved one. We are simply trying to maintain safety and the Core Principles of Infection Prevention for our residents, staff and visitors.