

## VillageCare Rehabilitation and Nursing Center COVID-19 Visitation Fact Sheet

NYS Department of Health issued a Health Advisory on July 8, 2021 advising that nursing homes may conduct visitation through different means, such as outdoors, in dedicated visitation spaces, and in resident rooms, while abiding by the core principles of infection control that reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The modification is due to nursing home residents and staff who have been fully COVID-vaccinated and receiving vaccinations as they become available. There is no change in the policy for visitation of residents due to medical necessity, compassionate visits, or end-of life services, as well as visits required under federal disability rights law. Visitation will be allowed, including, but not limited to, for family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations.

1. **Visits are permitted during the designated visiting hours. Visitation appointments no longer need to be scheduled in advance. The hours of visitation are:**
  - 10:00am-12:00pm
  - 2:00pm-5:00pm
  - 6:30pm-8:00pm
2. The Facility will screen visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access and will prohibit entry to visitor(s) exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or that do not pass the screening questions. Screening shall consist of temperature checks and questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19.
  - The following information must be provided for each visitor: first and last name of the visitor, time of facility entry, temperature, telephone number, and resident name and room number.
3. Visitors should continue to physically distance at least 6 feet from other residents, visitors and staff in the facility and wear a face mask which always covers both the nose and mouth when on the premises of the facility.
4. The Facility requests that there are only **2 visitors per resident at one time** and may limit the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at one time in order to maintain the core principles of infection prevention.
5. Given the continued risk of COVID-19 transmission, visitors are encouraged to get tested in the community prior to coming to the facility (2-3 days prior to visit). The Facility offers rapid COVID-19 testing to all visitors as needed in order reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
6. Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation. The Facility encourages visitors to become vaccinated when they have the opportunity to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
7. Visitors will be required to appropriately use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, consisting of at least 60 percent (60%) alcohol, provided by the Facility, prior to visiting the residents.
8. **Outdoor visitation is preferred** even when the resident and visitor(s) are fully vaccinated\* against COVID-19 (except in instances of inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, or poor air quality).

\*Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the CDC's Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.

- When conducting outdoor visitation, all appropriate infection control practices should continue to be adhered to.
9. Indoor visitation is allowed for all residents, regardless of vaccination status, except during circumstances where there is high risk for COVID-19 transmission (county positivity rate is more than 10%).
    - Visits for residents who share a room should ideally not be conducted in the resident's room. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, the Facility will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, including physical distancing and use of face masks.
  10. Visitor movement throughout the facility should be limited. Visitors should go directly to the designated visitation area or the resident's room.
  11. Visits may take place for the resident and visitor's desired length of time during normal visiting hours, to the extent possible, in consideration of the core principles of infection control and to respect the privacy of other residents in the event a resident shares a room.
  12. Current COVID 19 positive residents, residents with COVID 19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period remain ineligible for in person visits.
    - Residents who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 should only receive visits that are virtual or through windows.
  13. If the resident is **fully vaccinated**, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with an **unvaccinated** visitor while both are wearing a well-fitting face mask and **performing hand-hygiene before and after**.
  14. If **both the resident and their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated**, and the resident and visitor(s) are alone in the resident room or designated visitation area, the resident and visitor may choose to have close contact (including touch) without a face mask or face covering, **and perform hand-hygiene before and after**.
  15. Visitors under the age of 18 years old **MUST** be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
  16. A copy of the Facility's formal visitation plan is posted on the website.
  17. Compassionate care visits, medically necessary visits, end of life visits, and visits required under federal disability rights law are always allowed, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak. Visitors will be screened and escorted to the resident's room.
  18. In accordance with the NYSDOH July 8, 2021 Health Advisory, if any visitor fails to adhere to the Facility's visitation plan and to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, he/she/they will be not be permitted to visit and may be asked to leave.