

ESSENTIAL CARE VISITOR CHART
for INFECTION CONTROL PROTOCOL
COVID-19
(June 1, 2020)
(Updated July 19, 2020)

From www.essentialcarevisitor.com
for our NURSING HOME RESIDENTS
NATIONWIDE

Current Infection Control (Current Risk Factors) during COVID-19 During ALL PHASES of RE-OPENING:

- Health Agency staff who have been elsewhere and are working per-diem at facility
- Per diem staff
- The aides working on both COVID-19 and Non-COVID-19 patients
- Hospice caregivers, family members, vendors and compassionate supportive care workers **being allowed** in since Day one of Pandemic
- Residents not getting full needs met in a pandemic setting

(Versus)

ESSENTIAL CARE VISITORS address a Person Centered Care Plan and uphold the Total Quality Care Law for Residents in Long Term Care Facilities in the following ways:

- Supplemental Care for Care Planning
- Supportive Care (Feeding, Hydration, Toileting)
- Socialization
- Occupational and Physical Therapy (as appropriate)
- Sensory Motor Exercises (if appropriate)
- Hydration
- Music Therapy
- Modified visits during pandemic
- Supports Mental Health, Psycho-Social, etc.

**ESSENTIAL CARE VISITOR CATEGORY
COVID-19 and BEYOND...**

WHAT IS AN ESSENTIAL CARE VISITOR?

An **Essential Care Visitor** is a care visitor for a loved one in a medical facility that provides direct care for their loved one, and is in partnership with nursing staff. The **Essential Care Visitor** could be the spouse, partner, health care proxy or care representative for the resident. There are approximately 100,000 of us throughout the United States. 1.1 million residents live in nursing facilities - 10% of us that daily visit the loved one and co-manage the care of our loved ones in the facility and are an integral part of our loved ones care and life sustenance.

BENEFITS of Essential Care Visitor:

Addresses Systemic Staff Shortages
Addresses Workers getting sick during COVID-19
Provides Supportive & Supplemental Care for resident
Recreation Staff Support
Provides Person Centered Care for Loved One

We suggest the following protocol for **Essential Care Visitors** in order to keep our loved ones safe appropriately cared for in New York State effective immediately:

- Identify **Essential Care Visitor** in each facility with Family representative - **IMMEDIATELY**
- Test and Screen ONE Family Member who will be the designated **Essential Care Visitor** providing them access to COVID-19 tests like other healthcare workers, or they can access New York State Department of Health 2x a week
- Allow **Essential Care Visitor** Visits at least 3x a week for a three hour visit similar to the Compassionate Care / Hospice Visitor Protocol (*Upon Confirmation of COVID-19 - Negative Status*)
- Social Worker for each Family must create a letter identifying the visitor as an **Essential Care Visitor** for entry into the facility and continued monthly clearance, as well to have access to COVID-19 test
- Provide appropriate PPE Gear for **Essential Care Visitor**

Essential Care Visitors are an integral part of achieving the goal of the Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 (NHRA), which ensures that residents of nursing homes receive quality care that will result in their achieving or maintaining their "highest practicable" physical, mental, and psycho-social well-being.

We can't imagine what our loved ones have just lived through. They need our support and care visit as **Essential Care Visitors**.

We request the right as **Essential Care Visitors** during the phases of **Opening Up America Again** to prevent loss of life.

Include **Essential Care Visitors** in your visitation planning! Our loved ones need us now.

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