

Operations 2: Facility Operations	<b>Visitation During COVID-19</b>
Chapter: Resident Rights      Release Date: 06/02/20,03/11/21,04/20/21,08/13/21,11/22/21,12/28/21	

**POLICY**

The facility shall establish appropriate guidelines for visitors to try to prevent or minimize the transmission risk of communicable diseases. During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), CMS Memorandum, CDC Guidelines, CDPH All Facilities Letters (AFLs) and the local public health memorandum, the visitation guidelines are modified to protect the health and safety of residents, staff, and the public. The facility will adhere to the most updated directives from these government entities.

**See attachment.**

Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit and will be asked to leave.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Upon admission of the resident to the facility, family members or resident representative are provided with education that may include an explanation of the facility's infection control practices if allowed to visit for the reasons described above. This may include information pertaining to:
  - Transmission-based Precautions;
  - Hand hygiene;
  - Respiratory hygiene;
  - Signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
  
2. The visitor will be subjected to the facility's screening process, including procedures to follow prior to entrance to the facility:
  - Hand hygiene- Sinks and ABHR are easily accessible to visitors
  - Temperature taking
  - Screening questionnaire
  - Proper utilization of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)-regardless of vaccination status, the visitors will be provided with facial mask and face shield for the green zone; N95 respirator with face shield. Gown and gloves for ALL zones.
  - COVID-19 vaccination information
  - COVID-19 testing requirements as per most recent AFL/local public health
  
3. Visit frequency, length of time and location (indoor/in-room/outdoor) will be dependent upon the most recent directive from the government agencies that the facility must adhere to.
  
4. The facility will assign a **staff**:
  - **Screener**- who will also assist with proper donning/doffing of PPE and observe adherence of visitors to the instructions and infection control protocols.
  - **COVID-19 POC antigen tester** (preferably the facility's Infection Preventionist or Licensed Nurse Designee) when testing is indicated, and **instructor** regarding facility infection control practices and visitation restrictions,
  - **Housekeeper**-to make sure that the resident's room or designated visitation room will be disinfected after each resident-visitor meeting. ABHR must be available for use inside the room or the visitation area.

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5. The Administrator, in conjunction with the Medical Director and Infection Preventionist, has the authority to restrict or ban facility visitation during outbreaks, whether these originate in the facility or in the community.
6. A resident has the right to withdraw an individual's visiting privileges at any time. Such documentation must be recorded in the resident's medical record to ensure that staff members are aware of such restrictions.
7. The facility does not have an age restriction policy. However, visitors under the age of twelve (12) must be strictly supervised. Violations of these policies must be reported to the Administrator. The Administrator has the right to restrict or ban visitors as indicated.
8. If in-person access is not available due to infection control concerns, or guidance provided by local public health officials, the facility has **Guidelines for Resident Communication**.
9. The facility will follow the local district, local public health's directives if differs from this protocol.