

The Shook Home
Department of Nursing

Subject: Resident Visitation

Date: 9/17/20

Policy: It is the policy of The Shook Home to permit resident visitation as per 42 CFR 483.10(f)(4) and 42 CFR 483.10(f)(4)(ii) and (iii) while practicing the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention outlined in QSO-20-39-NH.

Purpose: To enable residents to achieve their highest practicable level of physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing while maintaining infection control practices aimed at protecting residents from COVID-19.

Procedure:

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

Regardless of whether visits are conducted outdoors or indoors, the following core principles and best practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission should be used:

- All visitors who enter the facility will be screen for symptoms of COVID-19 using the Visitor Screen Log. Visitors who do not pass the screening will not be permitted to visit.
 - Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19 or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, will not be permitted to visit and should avoid entering the facility.
- If Franklin County's positivity rate is 5% or greater, visitors will be offered a complimentary rapid Point-of-Care COVID test. However, acceptance of the offer is not a requirement of visitation.
- All visitors must practice proper hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred) upon entering the facility and throughout their visits as necessary.
- All visitors *and residents* must wear face coverings or masks (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance
 - Residents who have trouble breathing or are unable to wear a mask due to a disability or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance is exempt from wearing one.
 - IF the resident and all their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated and the resident is not severely immunocompromised, they may choose not to wear face coverings or masks and have physical contact.
 - Visitors must wear face coverings or masks when around other residents or healthcare personnel regardless of vaccination status.
 - Visitors who decline to disclose their vaccination status must wear face coverings or masks at all times.
 - Unvaccinated residents may also choose to have physical touch based on their preferences and needs, such as with support persons for individuals with disabilities and visitors participating in certain religious practices including end-of-life situations.

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Reference: QSO-20-39-NH dated 11/12/2021

- Signage will be posted throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 vaccine, COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, and other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene) will be provided upon entry to the facility.
- High-touch surfaces in the facility will be cleaned and disinfected often as well as those located in designated visitation areas after each visit.
- Staff will properly use the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Residents will be cohorted effectively (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Residents and staff will be tested as required at 42 CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH)

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

Outdoor Visitation

Outdoor visitation is preferred to indoor visitation especially when the residents and/or visitors are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This is due to the lower risk of transmission resulting from increased space and airflow.

- While taking a person-centered approach and adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, outdoor visitation will be made available upon resident request.
- Safe, accessible outdoor visitation spaces will be designated by facility staff and made available as needed.
- Weather considerations (inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality) or an individual resident's health status (e.g., medical conditions, COVID-19 status) may hinder outdoor visits.

Indoor Visitation

Indoor visitation will be always permitted for all residents without advance scheduling. There are no limits on the frequency and length of visits or the number of visitors residents may receive (although large social gatherings are prohibited as per QSO-20-39-NH dated 11/12/2021).

- While taking a person-centered approach and adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, indoor visitation will take place in a designated area or the resident's room.
 - Although there is no limit on the number of visitors residents may have at any given time, visitors should be aware of and sensitive to space limitations in resident rooms.
 - If a resident shares a room with a roommate, and the roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), the visit should not take place in the room if possible. If the health of the resident prevents the resident from leaving the room, in room visitation may be allowed while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention (and the privacy curtain must be used).
 - Visitors, whether visiting in a designated area or visiting in a resident room, must go directly to that location and should not walk around the different halls of the facility.

- Residents on Transmission Based Precautions (TBP) due to an active COVID-19 Infection or quarantine due to being newly admitted or readmitted from the hospital may still receive visitors.
 - Visitation must occur in the residents' rooms.
 - The Resident should wear a well-fitting face mask (if tolerated).
 - Visitors must wear an N95 mask, eye protection, and a gown.
 - If a resident is on isolation precautions beyond the initial 14-day restrictions, the visitor must wear appropriate PPE to that infection.

Indoor Visitation During an Outbreak Investigation

- Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak Investigation will be permitted.
 - Visitation must take place in the residents' rooms and adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention
 - Visitors are only required to wear a face covering or mask during an outbreak unless visiting residents on TBP due to an active COVID-19 Infection or quarantine due to being newly admitted or readmitted from the hospital.

Compassionate Care Visits

Compassionate Care Visits may occur at all times.

Access to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Representative of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman will have immediate access to any resident.

- If an ombudsman is planning to visit a resident who is in TBP or quarantine, or an unvaccinated resident when the Franklin County positivity rate was 5% or greater in the past seven days, the resident and ombudsman should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting, and the visit should take place in the resident's room.
 - If the resident or ombudsman requests an alternate means of communication in lieu of an in-person visit, a telephone call or computer-based meeting will be facilitated.

Federal Disability Rights Laws and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Programs

Representatives of the protection and advocacy systems, as designated by the state, and as established under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights act of 2000, and of the agency responsible for the protection and advocacy system for individuals with a mental disorder will have immediate access to any resident.

- If the P&A is planning to visit a resident who is in TBP or quarantine, or an unvaccinated resident when the Franklin County positivity rate was 5% or greater in the past seven days, the resident and ombudsman should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting, and the visit should take place in the resident's room.

Entry of Healthcare Workers and Other Providers of Services

- All healthcare workers will be permitted to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion or showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
 - EMS personnel do not need to be screened, so they can attend to an emergency without delay.
- Personnel educating and assisting in resident transitions to the community will be permitted entry consistent with this guidance.
- All staff, including individuals providing services under arrangement as well as volunteers, should adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and must comply with COVID-19 testing requirements.