

COVID-19 In-Person Visitation –Gardens West Assisted Living					
<i>Date Implemented:</i>	9/20/21; 5/6/22	<i>Date Revised:</i>	10/18/2022	<i>Reviewed/ Revised By:</i>	KM

Policy:

This facility will allow visitation of all visitors, including essential caregivers, and can be conducted through different means based on the facility’s structure and residents’ needs, such as in resident rooms, dedicated visitation spaces, and outdoors. The visitation will be person-centered, consider the resident’s physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life. Exceptions will be in accordance with CDC recommendations, or as directed by state government. This policy complies with regulations set forth in Chapter 408.823, Florida Statutes. A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.

Definitions:

“Essential Caregivers” visitors who provide emotional support to help a resident deal with a difficult transition or loss, upsetting event, making major medical decisions, needs cueing to eat and drink, stops speaking, or end-of-life.

Policy Explanation and Compliance Guidelines for Visitors/Essential Caregivers:

1. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:
 - a. End-of-life situations
 - b. A resident, client, or patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider’s care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
 - c. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
 - d. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 - e. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver
 - f. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
2. The facility will allow visitation at all times for all residents and will not limit the frequency and length of visits, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits.
3. The facility will communicate this visitation policy through multiple channels. Examples include signage, calls, letters, social media posts, emails, and recorded messages for receiving calls. The visitation policy will also be made available on the John Knox Village webpage.
4. The facility will maintain a visitor log for signing in and out.

The core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention will be adhered to and as follows:

- a. Visitors who report a recent positive viral test for COVID-19 or symptoms related to COVID-19 will be asked not to enter the facility.
- b. Residents who are quarantined, tested positive for COVID-19, or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms may designate one essential caregiver visitor to visit them during these periods. Visits in these circumstances will require a higher level of PPE than the standard surgical masks.
- c. Residents regardless of vaccination status, may choose to have close contact with their visitor(s) (including physical touch) based on their preferences and needs
- d. A well-fitting cloth mask, facemask, or respirator covering the mouth and nose, may be worn by visitors throughout the facility. The facility does not require visitors to wear masks when visiting a

- resident who is not under isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19. In this case, use of a higher level of PPE may be required.
- e. The facility does not require visitors to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to their visit. An electronic monitoring system will be made available for visitors who report cold-like symptoms. In this case, visitors may be instructed on how to use the electronic monitoring system for screening purposes by available staff.
 - f. Visits will be allowed during outbreak investigations, but visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during the outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
 - g. Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, and other applicable facility practices will be conducted.
 - h. Cleaning and disinfection of highly touched surfaces in the facility will be done on a routine basis.
 - i. Hand hygiene, using an alcohol-based hand rub, will be made publicly available and recommended for use before visiting with residents.
 - j. The facility will designate the Administrator and/or Charge Nurse as key staff to support infection prevention and control training.
 - k. Visits will be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents. Physical barriers (e.g., clear Plexiglass dividers, curtains) may be used to ensure privacy and reduced risk of transmission during in-person visits.
 - l. Outdoor visits are preferred whenever practicable and will be facilitated routinely barring weather conditions, a resident's health status or the facility's outbreak status. The facility will have an accessible and safe outdoor space in which to conduct outdoor visitation.
 - m. The facility may ask about a visitor's vaccination status; however, visitors will not be required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation.

References:

- AHCA, A. for H. C. A. (2022, September 20). *Operational Updates: Hospitals & Long-Term Care Facilities*.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic*. Located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>. Updated September 23, 2022. Accessed October 2022.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (November 12 2021) *QSO-20-39-NH: Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 (REVISED)*.
- Section 408.823 Florida Statutes - In-person Visitation – Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida effect. 4.06.22