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Owner:	<i>Kim Salmi: Administrator</i>
Area:	<i>Resident Care Procedures</i>
References:	

Visitations During a Pandemic

Visits During a Pandemic

Policy and Procedure

The facility shall remain in compliance with all state and federal rules and regulations regarding the rights of the residents to receive visitors as requested. This policy and procedure is being developed in the event there is an Executive Order or Waiver that comes from the Governor's office, or the President of the United States, that contradicts the state and federal rule or regulation that requires a nursing facility to be open to certain visitors 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

If a pandemic that puts the residents at a health risk for an exposure to visitors or those entering the building has been declared by state or federal government, visitations may be allowed providing they are in conducted in accordance to CDC, CMS, MDHHS and Governor's orders. The facility recognizes that the absence of visitors is difficult for many facility residents; in some cases, not being able to see loved ones may put a resident's health and wellbeing at significant risk. The following procedure must be followed in order to permit visits between residents and those not employed by Canal View-Houghton County:

In-Person visitations may be permitted in the following circumstances **ONLY**:

- Residents with hearing, vision, or speech impairments whose visits support activities of daily living ("ADLs"), and are limited to arrangements that:
 - Existed prior to March 14, 2020, or become necessary in light of a change in the resident's condition, such as refusing to eat, that could be improved with assistance from a resident support person; and
 - Involve a family member or friend assisting a resident with ADLs such as feeding the resident to encourage and ensure adequate nutrition; and
 - Require the visitor to wear a mask at all times and use appropriate procedures for the assigned ADL tasks, with the facility ensuring compliance through training or observation' and
 - Are scheduled in advance for specific and individualized ADL tasks; and
 - Occur in the resident's room, if private, or in a room designated by the facility; and
- When a resident is in "serious or critical condition or in hospice care"

Outdoor visitations may be permitted under the following circumstances **ONLY**:

- The facility has had no new COVID-19 cases that originated in the facility (staff &/or residents) within the prior 14 days. Admission of a resident who is known to be COVID-19 positive as the time of admission does not constitute a facility-onset case
- The Local Health Department has not made a determination that the facility is unsafe for visitation based upon local epidemiological conditions

Facility Responsibilities:

- Visits will be by appointment only.
- The use of outdoor locations for visitation will be utilized whenever feasible.
- The Activities Director or designee will be responsible for setting up appointments for the visits with families and will share schedules with nursing, dietary and therapy as needed.
- Nursing staff or Activity staff will bring the visitor to the designated visitation area at their assigned times.
- The facility will exclude visitors who are unwilling or unable to wear a face covering for the duration of their visit, and persons unable to follow hand hygiene requirements, and instead encourage those persons to use video or other forms of remote visitation.
- All visitors will enter via the front entrance and will allow proper COVID-19 screening. (Visitors will also be screened outside, prior to an outside visitation).
- The facility will restrict anyone with fever, symptoms or known exposure from entering the facility.
- The facility staff will educate visitors on additional PPE use requirements if needed, and supply the PPE required.
- Signage will be posted at all visitor entrances instructing that visitors must be assessed for symptoms of COVID-19 before entry and instructing persons who have symptoms of respiratory infection (including but not limited to, fever, cough, or shortness of breath) to not enter the facility.
- Make available an employee trained in infection control measures at all times during visit. This does not need to be the IP, but can be any employee trained in infection control measures.
- Non-activities staff may help support staff outside in the monitoring of outside visits, providing that they have been appropriately trained. Staff will NOT leave a resident outside to bring the other one in.
- Staff that is outside will have the ability to communicate with staff inside of the facility, in the event that there are any issues. This can be done with a walkie talkie or cell phone.
- The facility will RESTRICT visits to residents who are in isolation or are otherwise under for observation for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Make hand sanitizer &/or hand washing facilities safely available to visitors.
- The Infection Preventionist or designee will limit the number of overall visitors at the facility in a any given time based upon limited space, infection control capacity, and other appropriate factors to reduce the risk of transmission.

Visitor Responsibilities

- Visitors **MUST** adhere to recommended infection control precautions.
 - Visitors must be screened per facility protocol and will be required to wear a mask.
 - Social distancing requirements with residents and employees, unless the visitor is actively providing support for ADLS.
- Visits may be time limited in order to allow others to have time to visit as well.
- Residents should be encouraged to wear a face mask during the visit.
- A staff member **MUST** be with the residents at all times. This is to avoid any attempts by visitors to make contact with the resident (no hugs or kisses).
- Residents and visitors will NOT share food.
- Visitors who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days of a visit to notify the facility.
- **No more than 2 visitors at a time** will be permitted and no visitors 12 and under will be permitted. Exceptions to be made by the DON or Administrator.

Any visitor(s) who cannot comply with the above requirements WILL have their face-to-face visitation privileges revoked for the duration of the pandemic.

Attachments

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Approver	Date
Kim Salmi: Administrator	09/2020