

Welcome to

Long-term care facilities across the nation have been severely impacted by COVID-19, with outbreaks causing high rates of infection, morbidity, and mortality. The vulnerable nature of the people who live in these facilities combined with the inherent risks of congregate living have required aggressive efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within these facilities.

However, we also recognize that prolonged separation from family and other loved ones has taken a physical and emotional toll on residents. Residents may feel socially isolated, leading to increased risk for depression, anxiety, and other expressions of distress. Residents living with cognitive impairment or other disabilities may find visitor restrictions and other ongoing changes related to COVID-19 confusing or upsetting. Separation of families from their loved ones, many of whom are receiving end-of-life care, has also caused significant distress. In light of this, this guidance is issued to encourage safe visitation by family and friends.

We appreciate your assistance in keeping our residents and staff safe.

Our facility recognizes that vaccination against COVID-19 is both safe and effective against severe disease outcomes and mortality. Full vaccination for visitors, healthcare personnel and residents is strongly encouraged.

In addition, below are some ways in which we ask your help in keeping our facility safe during the pandemic:

- Visitors will be screened at entry and will be required to reschedule their visit to another time if they have:
 - a recent positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2, until the visitor no longer meets criteria for isolation,
 - symptoms of COVID-19, or
 - a recent exposure to an individual with COVID-19 if the visitor still meets criteria for quarantine
- Visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, should wear a well-fitting cloth mask, facemask or respirator (N95 or a respirator approved under the standards used in other countries that are similar to NIOSH-approved N95 filtering facepiece respirators) for source control.
- Visitors should physically distance (i.e., maintain at least 6 feet between people) from other patients/residents, visitors who are not part of their group, and HCP in the facility.
- Hand hygiene should be performed by the resident and the visitors before and after contact.
- For residents who share a room, we may ask that the visit take place in a designated visitation area rather than the resident's room to help decrease exposure risk to the roommate.
- Visitors are asked to go directly to the visiting area or resident room (if the visit is an in-room visit) to avoid unnecessary movement throughout the facility.
- Visitors who are unable or unwilling to adhere to a facility's protocols for COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit or will be asked to leave.
- Visitors in counties with substantial or high transmission levels may be offered testing, if feasible. Visitors may also be encouraged to be tested on their own prior to coming to the facility (e.g., within 2–3 days) with proof of negative test results and date of test. However, even with a recent negative test result, all visitors must strictly adhere to the protocols for infection prevention and screening outlined above.

Visitors should understand the risks associated with in-person visitations:

- Resident could be exposed to asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic visitors who have COVID-19. Adherence to the above measures will help minimize this risk.
- Visitors could be exposed to asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic resident or staff. The risk of exposure increases if the visit occurs during an active outbreak or if visiting a resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Please contact the facility if you develop any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or receive a positive COVID-19 test result within 14 days of your facility visit.

Facility contact information:

