

Visitation

Policy Statement

The facility has implemented a visitation policy in consideration of infectious diseases, such as SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). This policy is subject to frequent revisions. The facility will not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, ancestry, marital or veteran status.

Policy Interpretation and Implementation

1. The facility recognizes the resident's need to maintain contact with their love ones. The facility has developed the visitation policy to account for measures to help ensure the health and safety of our residents and staff, as well as, to maintain compliance with state and federal requirements and recommendations hours of 9AM-9PM
2. Upon request, the facility will make provisions to adjust visiting hours for caregivers, out of town guests and for other similar situations
3. Visits with representatives from federal and state survey agencies, resident advocates, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, State and Federal Disability Rights Laws and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Program authorities, clergy, and the resident's personal physicians, are permitted at all times for any resident
4. In accordance with Florida Statute 408.823(2)(b), a resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an Essential Caregiver¹ who is permitted access to the resident.
 - a. Should the resident designate an Essential Caregiver, the facility will document the name and contact information for this individual.
 - b. The facility shall permit the resident to revoke or change their Essential Caregiver, at any time, by notifying the administrator.
 - c. Essential Caregiver visits will be permitted for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the facility.
 - d. An Essential Caregiver is not required to provide necessary care to the resident, nor may the facility require an essential caregiver to provide such care.
5. Unless specifically prohibited under federal or state law, rule and/or regulation or by any federal, state or local entity which has jurisdiction, in-person, essential caregiver² visits will be permitted in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
 - a. End-of-life situations;
 - b. A resident, who was living with family prior to being admitted, is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support;
 - c. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions;

¹ As defined at 408.823(2)(b) FS A resident, client, or patient may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The provider must allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident, client, or patient of a provider, and providers may not require an essential caregiver to provide such care.

² 408.823(2)(c) 1-6 FS

- d. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died;
 - e. A resident who requires cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver; or
 - f. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking
6. Under certain circumstances, such as facility health outbreaks, the facility may need to limit visitors. At these times, in addition to a resident's essential caregiver, if the resident has chosen to appoint one, each resident may be permitted no more than 2 in-person visitors per day for visits which may not exceed 30 minutes in length.
 7. Visitors experiencing signs or symptoms of or have a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission are requested to defer non-urgent, in-person visits until they meet the CDC criteria to end [isolation](#). If the visit cannot be deferred, then the visitor will be requested to wear a facemask.
 8. Visitors³ will be required to:
 - a. Participate in facility-provided training⁴ on:
 - i. infection prevention and control,
 - ii. use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/ face masks,
 - iii. hand sanitation, and
 - iv. social distancing
 - b. Visitors may be asked to sign an acknowledgement of the potential risks (to include acquiring and spreading an infectious disease) of visitation; the infection control practices of the facility; precautions as recommended by the CDC which includes the use of PPE such as masks; and the facility's visitation policy and agree to abide by these policies. This is at the discretion of the Administrator.
 - c. Visit in facility-designated visitation areas or resident's room which will be determined by the facility.
 - d. Visitors under 18 years of age:
 - i. Accompanied by an adult over the age of 18.
 - ii. Remain with the adult through the entire visit.
 - iii. Follow all infection control precautions.
 - iv. Limit movement through the facility.
 - v. The adult will be responsible, at all times, for the child's behavior
 - vi. The facility reserves the right to expel the child and adult should they fail to maintain compliance with these requirements
 - e. Limit movement in the facility;
 - f. Immediately inform the facility if they develop a fever or symptoms consistent with or test positive for an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, such as COVID-19, or are symptomatic within fourteen (14) days of a visit to the facility
 - g. While permitted, in order to help ensure the safety of the other residents in the facility, visitation is **NOT** recommended for residents who have tested positive or been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission or are symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, who have not meet the CDC criteria for [isolation](#).

³ Visitors should not be required to be tested or vaccinated

⁴ Training may be conducted online or within the facility.

9. The Facility shall **NOT** compel visitors to provide proof of vaccination or immunization status. In addition, the facility shall **NOT** deny visitation based on a visitor's vaccination or immunization status.
10. The facility will post signage for infection control reminders
11. The facility will follow recommendations based on [COVID-19 Hospital Admission Levels](#); the CDC; Florida Department of Health and local health departments.
12. Residents and visitors will be encouraged to implement [strategies to protect themselves and others](#) as recommended by the CDC, including recommendations for use of facemasks, or other source control for individuals who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease. Strategies include:
 - a. Staying up-to-date with vaccines;
 - b. Getting tested for COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, if needed;
 - c. Following CDC recommendations for what to do if you have been exposed to an infectious disease, such as COVID-19;
 - d. Staying Home When You Have Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 or other infectious disease;
 - e. Seeking treatment if you have an infectious disease, such as COVID-19; and/or Are at High Risk of Getting Very Sick; and
 - f. Avoiding Contact with People Who Have Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 or other infectious disease.
13. The facility will provide:
 - a. Outdoor⁵ visitation space that is protected from weather elements, with cooling devices, if needed; and
 - b. Indoor visitation
14. Visits for residents who share a room should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible.
15. Indoor Visitation during an infectious disease outbreak
 - a. The facility reserves the right to modify (as noted at #6 and #7) visitation due to an infectious disease outbreak and/or to suspend visitation in accordance with state, federal or local direction or recommendation with the exception of Essential Caregivers; in- person visitation under the circumstances noted above as directed by 408.823(2)(c) 1-6 FS; representatives from federal and state survey agencies, resident advocates, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, State and Federal Disability Rights Laws and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Program authorities, clergy, and the resident's personal physicians.
 - b. During an infectious disease -19 outbreak, the facility will:
 - i. Make visitors aware of the potential risk of visitation during an outbreak; and
 - ii. adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
 - c. Use of appropriate source control will be required regardless of vaccination status.
16. A resident or visitor may opt-out of utilizing face coverings or facemasks if an alternate method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available⁶ except when the resident and/or visitor has tested positive for or diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission; are symptomatic; and/or when the resident is on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or isolation due to infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, such as COVID-19
17. The facility reserves the right to restrict or deny visitation during declared emergencies or as directed by state, federal or local officials to include, but not limited to hurricanes and civil unrest.

⁵ Outdoor visitation is preferred even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

⁶ [59AER23-1](#)- Definitions; [59AER23-2 Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control](#)

18. Incidents of any disruptive, threatening, violent, or abusive behavior or behavior which places the health or safety of the resident or others at risk by a visitor must be documented in the resident's medical record or other facility approved form.
19. If the disruptive, threatening, violent or abusive behavior or behavior which places the health or safety of the resident or others at risk persists, the facility reserves the right to have the visitor removed from the facility. If the facility determines this behavior presents a danger or escalates to a point that it cannot be managed; thus, infringing on the rights of other residents, staff or visitors, the facility reserves the right to take any action necessary to ensure the safety of the residents, staff and other visitors. This action will be documented in the resident's record or facility approved form.
20. A visitor log will be maintained. Each visitor will be required to:
 - a. Provide their name;
 - b. Date and time of entry and exit;
21. Any resident leaving the facility temporarily for medical appointments or other activities, is recommended to follow strategies to protect themselves and others as recommended by the CDC, including recommendations for use of facemasks, or other source control for individuals who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease.
22. The Administrator is responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to this policy.
23. Inquiries concerning this policy should be referred to the administrator.

References	
OBRA Regulatory Reference Numbers	429.28(1)(d)-Resident Bill of Rights; 59A-36.007(10) Infection Control Procedures; 408.823(1-2) FS
Survey Tag Numbers	A0030, A0036; CZ841
References	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq. (ADA). Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic