



Resident Visitation Policy
Effective and updated March 4, 2022

On March 4, 2022 the New York State Department of Health issued guidance to adult care facilities (ACF's) revising the visitation guidelines for adult care facilities. The New York State Department of Health will continue to permit visitation as long as ACF's are meeting certain guidelines and following the CDC Core Principles for COVID-19 infection prevention. Part of those guidelines include implementing the following visitation policy.

1. A Visitor is any non-employee within the building, including practitioners, building contractors, ombudspersons, government employees, volunteers or any other non-employee.
2. Signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene practices and applicable floor markings to cue social distancing delineations are present.
3. Visitors must maintain physical distance from other residents and facility staff.
4. Visitors are screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access and are refused access if they exhibit any symptoms or do not pass the screening questions. Screening must consist of both temperature checks and asking screening questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19, which shall include questions regarding international travel. Documentation of the screening questions asked will be maintained onsite and will make it available upon request to the Department of Health.
5. Documentation of visitor screening must be maintained onsite and available upon request of the Department of Health for purposes of inspection. Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19 irrespective of test result, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine should not enter the facility. Documentation **will** include the following for each visitor, practitioner or representative of the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP) to the ACF:
 - i. First and last name of the visitor;
 - ii. Phone number of visitor;



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- iii. Date and time of visit;
 - iv. A notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific health information.
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- 6. Adequate PPE is available to ensure residents wear a facemask or face covering during visitation.
 - 7. All Visitors must wear a face covering or mask at all times, regardless of vaccination status. The facility will provide a facemask if the visitor shows up without a face covering.
 - 8. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is available to visitors and residents.
 - 9. Visitation within resident apartments is permitted.
 - 10. Visitation can be inside in a well-ventilated common space when all are appropriately socially distanced and wearing a facemask or face covering while in the presence of others. Large gatherings should be avoided as much as possible especially where a large congregation of individuals in the same space cannot maintain physical distancing.
 - 11. While not recommended, residents who are on transmission-based precautions or quarantine can receive visitors. Such visits should occur in the resident's room and the resident must wear a well-fitting face mask (if tolerated). Before visiting such residents, visitors must be made aware of the potential risks of visiting and the precautions necessary to visit the resident. Visitors must adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. Facilities may offer well-fitting facemasks and other forms of personal protective equipment (PPE) if available, but facilities are not required to provide PPE to visitors.
 - 12. Residents are able to leave the facility as they choose. Residents and those accompanying residents on outings are reminded to follow all recommended infection prevention practices including wearing a face mask, maintaining physical distance and practicing hand hygiene.



13. If a resident (or family member or other individual associated with the resident) reports a possible close contact to an individual with COVID-19 while outside the facility, and the resident is unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated, the resident should be placed in quarantine and the LHD contacted for guidance. If the resident becomes symptomatic for COVID-19, the resident should be placed on transmission-based precautions regardless of vaccination status.

14. Residents who leave the facility for 24 hours or more should be tested upon return and follow applicable guidelines based on testing results.