

POLICY/PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Visitation Florida – Infection Prevention

DATE:

INTENT:

It is the policy of the facility to conduct visitation in accordance with CMS requirements [QSO 20-39-NH](#) and in accordance with state and national guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

1. Visitation will be conducted in a manner that is person-centered, considering the residents' physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life.
2. Visitors will be allowed to visit the resident when it is acceptable to the resident and does not infringe upon the rights of other residents residing in the facility, or the roommate.
3. The number of visitors and length of visitation will not be limited unless requested by the resident, if the visitor infringes on the rights of other residents, or if the visitor refuses to follow the facility visitation policy.
4. Facility will post signs promoting [respiratory hygiene](#) and hand hygiene as needed. Handouts will be available, or signs will be posted as needed for visitor education regarding infection prevention.
5. Staff will be monitored for adherence to this policy by administration, director of nursing, infection preventionist, or manager on duty.
6. Visitors who have symptoms of respiratory infection or other symptoms that may be associated with Infectious Diseases are asked to defer their visit until 10 days after symptom onset, symptoms have improved, and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours.
7. Visitors who have tested positive for Infectious Diseases in the last 10 days are asked to defer their visit until at least 10 days have passed since their positive test, symptoms have improved, and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours.



8. Visitors who have had close contact with someone who is known to have Infectious Diseases are asked to wear a mask at all times for the 10 days post close contact while in the facility, including when they are with the person they are visiting. If the visitor cannot wear a mask or is moderately to severely immunocompromised, then they are asked to defer non-urgent visits until at least 10 days post-exposure.
9. If a resident is on transmission-based precautions, their visitors are educated on the risks of visiting and on what personal protective equipment (PPE) is recommended for them to wear when they are in the resident room. This PPE will be made available to the visitor. Instructions on how to don and doff the PPE will also be provided to the visitor as needed.
10. Visitors going onto outbreak units or if there is a facility-wide outbreak, it is preferred that visitors wear a mask while on the affected unit/in the facility and go directly to the visitation area/resident room and not go to other parts of the facility.
11. Visitors are asked to perform hand hygiene upon entry into the facility and masks will be made available to them.
12. Outdoor visits pose less risk for transmission and space will be made available for outdoor visits (weather permitting).
13. Indoor visits may occur in designated visitation area or in the resident room. During peak times of visitation and large gatherings (e.g., parties, events) physical distancing will be encouraged. During the holidays when there may be high volume of visitors, the facility may ask visitors to schedule their visitation times.
14. Visitation may occur regardless of vaccination status and regardless of a resident being on transmission-based precautions. Visitors will not be asked about their vaccination status.
15. Consensual close contact may occur between the resident and visitor.
16. In rare circumstances when an outbreak may be uncontrolled and the facility has been working with the local health department to stop the outbreak, visitation may be paused at the direction of the health department. If the outbreak is severe enough to warrant pausing visitation, it would also warrant a pause on accepting new admissions (as long as there is adequate alternative access to care for hospital discharges). For example, in a nursing home where, despite collaborating with the health department



over several days, there continues to be uncontrolled transmission impacting a large

number of residents (e.g., more than 30% of residents became infected), and the health department advised the facility to pause visitation and new admissions temporarily.

17. In the rare circumstance that there is a pause in visitation, as noted in number 16 above, essential caregivers are always permitted to visit. A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. Essential caregivers may have in-person visitation for at least two hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider. Essential caregivers are not required to provide necessary care to the resident.
18. The facility will notify residents, their representatives, and family members if and when there are changes to visitation procedures due to an uncontrolled outbreak in the facility. In the event of visitation limitations, the facility will support remote means of communication via use of electronic devices.
19. In-person visitation is always allowed under the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
 - a. End-of-life situations.
 - b. A resident 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 is making one or more major medical decisions.
 - d. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 - e. A resident 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.
 - g. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
 - h. Pediatric patients.
20. If a visitor does not comply with visitation policies and procedures, visitation may be suspended.
21. This policy will be easily accessible to all visitors (i.e., webpage, posting at facility entrance).