

VISITATION RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

CMS has changed the visiting guidance for long term care! CMS strongly encourages all visitors to become vaccinated and we will continue to educate and encourage visitors to become vaccinated.

- Short list of changes:
 - All visitors can come at any time to visit their loved ones
 - There are no more schedules (Signup Genius) or time limits on visits effective immediately
 - All visitors must continue to be screened by our staff prior to entering the building (continue using the delivery bay door until the new entrance is open)
- Continue to call the phone number listed if there is not a staff member in the lobby area to take your temp and ask the screening questions.
- All visitors are asked to use hand sanitizer before their visit (going in and out of a residents room)
- Do not enter the hallway from the delivery door until a team member has screened you and let you in
 - All visitors must wear their masks at all times as we are still at the high level of community transmission (18.48% in Sioux County)
 - Go directly to your loved ones room and always stay at least 6 feet away from all team members and other residents
 - There is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time
- The family rooms are available to use for larger groups or for residents that share a room with someone
- Physical distancing needs to be maintained during busy visiting times
 - Facilities cannot have large gatherings such as parties or events where large numbers of visitors are in the same space at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained
- We will not be able to have large family gatherings at the care center for the holidays
 - Even residents who are ill can have visitors
 - Residents who are vaccinated and their visitors are vaccinated, can choose not to wear masks and not maintain physical distancing

We currently do not have any residents or team members that are ill with COVID-19. We continue to test all unvaccinated residents and team members twice a week until our county positivity is below 10% for two weeks.

Please read through these detailed notes from CMS regarding visitation details.

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. Facilities should screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance
- Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents. Facilities should ensure that physical distancing can still be maintained during peak times of visitation (e.g., lunch time, after business hours, etc.). Also, facilities should avoid large gatherings (e.g., parties, events) where large numbers of visitors are in the same space at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained. During indoor visitation, facilities should limit visitor movement in the facility. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.

- If a resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible
- If the nursing home's county COVID-19 community level of transmission is substantial to high, all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, should wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, at all times
- If the resident and all their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated and the resident is not moderately or severely immunocompromised, they may choose not to wear face coverings or masks and to have physical contact.
- Visitors should wear face coverings or masks when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status.
- While not recommended, residents who are on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or quarantine can still receive visitors. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident's room and the resident should wear a well-fitting facemask (if tolerated).
- Before visiting residents, who are on TBP or quarantine, visitors should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident. Visitors should adhere to the core principles of infection prevention
- Visitors should also physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility. CMS strongly encourages all visitors to become vaccinated and facilities should educate and also encourage visitors to become vaccinated. Visitor testing and vaccination can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and facilities may ask about a visitors' vaccination status, however, visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation. If the visitor declines to disclose their vaccination status, the visitor should wear a face covering or mask at all times.
- Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention should not be permitted to visit or should be asked to leave.