

### **Policy Statement**

Visitation is allowed for all residents of Premier Place as permitted under the local, state, and federal regulations. While previously acceptable during the PHE, the health center no longer limits the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors, or requires advance scheduling of visits.

### **Policy Interpretation and Implementation**

1. In order to minimize the risk to other residents, visitation will be conducted based on a residents' needs as well as the health center's structure such as in resident rooms, dedicated visitation spaces, and outdoor space availability.
2. Visitation should be person-centered, considering the residents' physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life.
3. Regardless of how visits are conducted, continue to follow the core principles and best practices related to the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

#### Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

- Screening: 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 health center. Facilities should screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
  - Hand hygiene
  - Face covering or mask and physical distancing at least six feet between people.
  - Instructional signage and proper visitor education on COVID- 19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable health center practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
  - Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the health center often, and designated visitation areas after each visit.
  - Appropriate staff use of PPE
  - Effective cohorting of residents.
  - Resident and staff testing conducted as required by local, state, and federal requirements.
4. Physical distancing should be maintained during peak times of visitation (e.g., lunch time, after business hours, etc.).
  5. 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.
  6. During indoor visitation, limit visitor movement in the health center. Visitors should not walk around different halls of the health center. They should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.
  7. For residents who are unvaccinated or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should be conducted in the resident's room, if possible. For situations where there is a roommate and the

health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, the health center will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention.

8. If a resident's roommate is not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses or immunocompromised visits should not be conducted in the resident's room if possible. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, we will attempt to enable in-room visits while adhering to the core principles of infection control.
9. If the 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. In areas of low to moderate transmission, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, particularly if either of them is at increased risk for severe disease or are unvaccinated or not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses. 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.
10. Visitors should wear face coverings or masks when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status.
11. 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.
12. The Community may offer well-fitting facemasks or other appropriate PPE, if available; however, facilities are not required to provide PPE for visitors.
13. Unvaccinated residents may also choose to have physical touch based on their preferences and needs, such as with support persons for individuals with disabilities and visitors participating in certain religious practices, including in end-of-life situations. In these situations, unvaccinated residents (or their representative) and their visitors should be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit. Visitors should also physically distance from other residents and staff in the health center.

#### **Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak Investigation**

14. An outbreak investigation will be initiated when a new onset of COVID-19 occurs (i.e., a new COVID-19 case among residents or staff) occurs in the health center. To swiftly detect cases, the health center will adhere to CMS regulations and guidance for COVID-19 testing, including routine unvaccinated staff testing, testing of individuals with symptoms, and outbreak testing.
15. When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, the health center will immediately begin outbreak testing in accordance with CDC guidelines, and local and state requirements.
16. While it is safer for visitors not to enter the health center during an outbreak investigation, visitors will be allowed in the health center. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they will be required to wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should occur in the resident's room. The health center will work with their local health authorities for guidance or direction on how to structure their visitation to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during an outbreak investigation.