

March 11, 2021

Dear Resident Families and Friends,

As promised, we are delighted to announce that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have provided updated guidance on nursing home visitation effective Thursday, March 10, 2021.

The news of this new guidance comes one year after lockdowns and visitor restrictions were implemented in March, 2020. And now, one year later, millions of vaccinations have taken place across the country with COVID-19 cases continuing to drop in Missouri.

While not a full campus reopening, we are now allowed to offer indoor visits to ALL our residents. While outdoor visits are still the preferred method of visitation to prevent COVID-19 transmission, under the new guidance, **nursing home facilities can now allow indoor visitation for all residents regardless of vaccination status.**

We can allow indoor visits for unvaccinated residents as long as the county COVID-19 positivity rate is <10% and >70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated*. Currently, all counties where Baptist Homes' campuses are located are in the yellow and with positivity rates less than 10% and vaccinations for residents are at 96%.

Some additional Good News!

The CMS and the CDC have made an allowance for residents that have been fully vaccinated in that they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting mask and using hand sanitizer or handwashing before and after. Visitors must continue to socially distance from other residents and staff in the facility during their visit.

*Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is >2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or >2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the CDC's recommendations.

Compassionate Care visits are allowed regardless of resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak. Compassionate care visits are defined as visits during end-of-life situations, visits from clergy or lay persons offering religious and spiritual support, and by family members in certain situations.

According to the CDC, we should continue to adhere to the following core principles for preventing COVID-19 transmission at all times:

- Screening all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. temperature checks, questions and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days, regardless of the visitor's vaccination status.
- Use of hand sanitizer or hand washing.
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose.)

- Social distancing at least six feet between persons.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces in the facility and visitation areas.
- Appropriate staff use of personal protective equipment.
- Resident and staff periodic, random sample testing.

In accordance with current guidance from health officials, we should limit the numbers of visitors in the facility at a time and also the number of visitors in a resident's room at a time. To ensure we are able to allow an opportunity for all residents to receive visitors, we are asking our visitors to continue to call to schedule an appointment. The guidelines for scheduling and visitation are as follows:

1. Visits are by appointment only. Please call at least 24 hours in advance, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for an appointment. We are limited to the number of visitors we can have in the building at one time. This number varies by campus, and space is limited, so please understand that appointments will be made on a first come, first serve basis. Due to staffing requirements, most visits must be scheduled Monday-Friday, however, some accommodations can be made for weekend visits.
2. All visitors must check-in, in the designated area and be screened. Screening includes:
 - a. Temperature checks
 - b. Face masks will be required
 - c. A questionnaire about symptoms and potential exposure must be completed
 - d. Observations of any signs and symptoms
3. Visits are limited to two persons.
 - a. Proper hand hygiene (washing and sanitizing) before and after each visit.
 - b. You will be escorted to and from your loved one's room.
 - c. Visitation area will be appropriately sanitized between each visit.
4. Residents who have been fully vaccinated or those who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days may enjoy a home visit or Leave of Absence (LOA) and return without being quarantined. However, upon return, residents will be:
 - a. Tested for COVID-19. Three tests will be done upon return (Day 1, Day 8 and Day 10). Additional testing may be done if signs or symptoms are present or if a resident or their family reports possible exposure to COVID-19 while outside the Home.
 - b. Screened and monitored for signs and symptoms for 14 days. If the resident or family member reports possible exposure to COVID-19 while outside the nursing home, or shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19, the resident will be placed on transmission-based precautions (quarantine) for 14 days.
 - c. Visits home may be as long as desired; however, due to limited COVID-testing resources, Leave of Absences (LOAs) may be limited to one every 30 days.

To schedule a short-term home visit (LOA) or in-room visit, please contact one of the following:

- Ozark Campus: April Snyder, Administrative Assistant, (417)581-2101
- Chillicothe Campus: Lisa Moseley, Assistant Administrator, (660)646-6219
- Arcadia Valley, Tiffany Sletten, Administrative Assistant, (573)546-7429

Together in His service,



Dr. Rodney Harrison
President