

# **Samaritan Keep Home COVID-19: Visitation Plan**

*Samaritan Keep Home will utilize a variety of methods to ensure residents receive the interaction with visitors to which they are entitled.*

## **Visitation Plan**

### **Overview**

- Visitation Hours will be 10am to 6:00pm - 7 days a week, however visitors will not be allowed in after 6 PM to allow for visits to be completed by 6:30pm.
- Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated, however it is strongly encouraged.
- Upon entering the facility for a visit, the family member(s) must be screened, (see screening process).
- Visitors must wear a face mask at all times and adhere to core Infection Control standards
- Visitors who have been vaccinated may touch the resident if the resident has been vaccinated. Both the visitor and the resident must continue to wear their face mask at all times.
- If resident or visitor is not vaccinated, social distance must be maintained while visiting.
- Visits may be up to 2 hours in duration
- Each resident may have up to 2 visitors at a time.
- Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and count as a visitor. (Mother and baby would be the 2 visitors.) Changes to the number of visitors will be left to the discretion of Administration and/or the Nursing Supervisor.
- Pets will also be allowed if the shot record is provided prior to the visit.
- No resident or visitor may visit the café on the first floor at this time.
- Visitors should maintain social distancing as appropriate and adhere to core Infection Control practices, if not they will be asked to leave.
- Any questions or requests for exceptions need to be addressed with the Infection Control Preventionist or Administrator on call.

### **Window Visits**

If window visits are deemed necessary they will occur in the “Gift Shop” room in the main lobby of SKH. Visitors will be scheduled for a 60-minute visit and the resident will

be placed inside the gift shop by the window with a telephone for communication. The visitors will be inside the lobby area on the other side of the window so they may see their loved one and communicate via telephone. Staff will ensure that visitors do not enter the gift shop at any time. All window visits must be scheduled with the Recreation Therapy Department in advance.

### **Indoor Visits in Designated Area**

In-person visits may occur on the first floor in the “Chapel” area or outside in the back patio area. The resident will be allowed 2 visitors. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and count as a visitor. (For example: mother and baby would be the 2 visitors.) Changes to the number of visitors will be left to the discretion of Administration and/or the Nursing Supervisor.

Pets will also be allowed if the shot record is provided prior to the visit. Upon entering the facility for a visit, the family member must be screened, (see screening process) and then they will be escorted to the visitation room and provided the Visitor Expectation Handout (Attachment #2).

### **On Unit Visits**

When in-person visitation is allowed on the units, in addition to the provisions for indoor visits above, the following will occur:

Visits should occur in resident’s room, unless resident is eating a meal in dining room and wishes for visitor to be present. In that case, visitor may visit in dining room (visitor may not eat). Visitor must be socially distanced and only interact with resident who they are visiting. Only one resident in a semi-private room may have visitors at one time.

Visitor will not be allowed to see multiple residents per visit, exception: husband/wife or other related residents may have combined visit in a common area such as the quiet lounge.

Visitors should proceed directly to site of visitation and then directly out of the building, no lingering in hallways and highly populated resident areas.

Any resident who is on precautions for C.Diff, MRSA, ESBL etc., the visitor must wear appropriate PPE while entering the room for visitation.

Newly admitted residents on admission COVID precautions may have visitors, however the visitors must wear full PPE.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

Window visits and indoor visits not on unit will be scheduled ahead of time by the Recreation Therapy Director or Designee. The staff scheduling will collect the following demographic information from the 2 identified visitors and log it in the visitor log:

First and Last name

Physical (street) address

Daytime and evening phone number

Email address, if available

Recreation Therapy Staff member or designee will be assigned to screen, log, supervise visits, and ensure disinfecting of visitation area after each visit. Areas to be disinfected include (but may not be limited to): seating areas, tables or other physical barrier touched by resident/visitor during visit, door handles, etc.

During times of open, on-unit visitation, visits do not need to be scheduled ahead of time. When visitors arrive, they will be screened as below. Housekeeping will ensure disinfecting of visitation area after each visit. Areas to be disinfected include (but may not be limited to): seating areas, tables or other physical barrier touched by resident/visitor during visit, door handles, etc.

## **Visitation Screening Process**

Upon arrival to visit, the visitors will be screened at the visitor screening station with the Visitor Screening Tool (Attachment #1). Visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, interaction with COVID-19 known or potentially positive individuals, and have their temperatures taken.

Visitation will be refused if the individual(s) exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or do not pass the screening questions, or if the resident already has 2 visitors at that time.

If the resident has not been vaccinated then the resident will wear a facemask or face covering which covers both the nose and mouth if able to physically tolerate. All visitors must wear a facemask or face covering which covers both the nose and mouth at all

times when on the premises. Visitors must maintain social distancing during the duration of their visit. If the visitor has been vaccinated then they may touch and have close contact with resident if the resident has also been vaccinated.

Visitors will be required to perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) containing at least 60% alcohol prior to and after visiting.

Current COVID-19 positive residents, residents with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14 day quarantine or observation period are not eligible for visits.

If any visitor fails to adhere to the protocol, he/she/they will be prohibited from visiting the duration of the COVID-19 state declared public health emergency.

If there is new onset COVID-19 among a resident or staff member, visitation will be reviewed and suspended if necessary per NYSDOH guidelines. Additionally, visitation may be suspended in accordance with the CDC and CMS guidelines as noted below due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission. These scenarios include limiting indoor visitation for:

- Unvaccinated residents if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is >10% AND <70% of the residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
- Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met criteria to discontinue Transmission Based Precaution; OR
- Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

## **Leave of Absence**

**Residents who are not vaccinated who leave the facility for more than 23 hours must:**

- Quarantine or minimize contact to the extent safely possible prior to their return to the facility.
- Test negative immediately upon return to the facility.
- Be quarantined on transmission-based precautions upon return to facility for 14 days.
- Be tested and quarantined according to CDC and CMS Guidelines.
- Require the leaving resident and a family or friend attest in writing that they:
  - Are aware of the risks involved with taking the resident out of the facility;

- Will follow masking, social distancing, and hand hygiene practices pursuant to CDC and DOH directives;
- Will notify the facility if the resident becomes ill within one week of leaving the facility;
- Will notify the facility if anyone with whom the resident socialized tests positive for COVID-19 or influenza or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 and influenza within 14 days of the resident's return to the facility;
- Will communicate with the facility about a return date for the resident to the facility in accordance with the facility's policy; and
- Will quarantine or minimize contact (or assist the resident to do so) to the extent safely possible prior to return to a nursing home.
- Screen and increase monitoring for signs and symptoms of illness upon resident return.

### **Visitor Expectations**

*These guidelines are for the safety of you, the residents, and staff. They must be followed, or you will be asked to leave the facility.*

- Visitation Hours will be from 10AM to 6PM
- Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated
- Visitors must be screened upon entering
- Clean your hands frequently.
- Wear your mask properly (over nose and mouth) at all times.
- Unless resident and visitor is vaccinated, no physical contact is allowed between residents and visitors.
- Stay in designated visitation area.
- Visits will be 2 hours in length and 2 visitors are allowed at one time.
- Visitors are NOT allowed to visit multiple residents, however they may have a combined visit with a husband/wife.
- Do not attempt to visit if you have any signs of illness.
- Social distance – please keep 6 feet away from others.
- Please be courteous of visitation schedule to ensure others are able to visit their loved ones.
- No resident or visitor may visit the café at this time.

### **Hand hygiene**

Hand hygiene is the number one way to prevent the spread of disease. Clean your hands frequently.

*At a minimum, clean hands:*

- When you enter or exit the facility.
- After using the restroom.
- After touching your face or wiping your nose.
- After touching your facemask.

## **Visitor Screening Tool**

1. *(Point to screening board)* Do you have any of the listed signs or symptoms?

Yes/No

2. In the past 14 days, have you had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness?

Yes/No

3. Take temperature of visitor. If 100.0°F or higher, explain that they are not allowed to visit with fever.

**If YES to any question, or temperature 100.0°F or higher:**

- Do not allow visitor in.
- Ask visitor to please re-schedule their visit until they are feeling better.
- Call nursing supervisor, (315) 778-7840, for assistance if needed.

**If NO to all questions, and temperature less than 100.0°F:**

- Hand (1) facemask, if not wearing mask.
- Provide “Visitor Expectations” Handout.
- Explain that visitor needs to remain in identified visitation area during visit.
- Document screening.
- Visitor needs to “check out” at the screening table.