

Samaritan Keep Home COVID-19 Visitation Plan – effective January 17, 2022

Samaritan Keep Home, Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), will utilize a variety of methods to ensure residents receive the interaction with visitors to which they are entitled.

Samaritan Keep Home adheres to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention (CDC), which include the following:

- 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. Samaritan Keep Home will screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or surgical mask and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility 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 facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required by CMS/NYSDOH

Outdoor Visitation

- Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of COVID-19 transmission due to increased space and airflow.
- However, weather considerations or an individual resident's health status may hinder outdoor visits.

Indoor Visitation

- Visitation hours are 8AM-4:30PM, 7 days a week.
- During indoor visitation, visitors should go directly to the visitor'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.
- Visitors must wear surgical masks at all times throughout the facility. Cloth masks will not be allowed unless they are covering a surgical mask.
- If there is low to moderate COVID-19 transmission, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear masks and physically distance.
- If there is substantial to high COVID-19 community transmission, residents and visitors must physically distance and wear masks.
- While not recommended, residents on transmission-based precautions (TBP) can still receive visitors.
- Prior to visiting with a resident on transmission-based precautions, visitors must: 1. understand the risks associated with visiting with said resident (including becoming infected with identified organism), 2. understand that they may be reported to local/state health departments as an exposure, as required by local/state health departments), and 3. demonstrate proper PPE use.

Indoor Visitation During an Outbreak Investigation

- When any new case of COVID-19 is identified among staff or residents, outbreak testing is triggered per current guidelines.
- While it is safer for visitors to not enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, they may choose to do so, with the understanding that they are assuming risks as outlined above.

Visitor Testing and Vaccination

- All skilled nursing visitors must receive a negative COVID-19 test result, within 24 hours prior to visiting residents in the facility. The facility may provide testing materials on a limited basis dependent on supplies supplied by the Department of Health.
- Compassionate care visitors and visitation related to end of life are not required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result prior to visitation.
- Visitors that visit 3 or more times per week are only required to provide a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to visitation.

- Regardless of COVID-19 community transmission, all visitors are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Visitation Screening Process

Upon arrival to visit, the visitors will be screened at the visitor screening station with the Visitor Screening Tool (Attachment #1), either verbally, or via kiosk. 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.

Attachment #1 Visitor Screening Tool

1. 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. Has the visitor received a negative COVID-19 test in the last 24 hours?

Yes/No. If yes, allow screening to continue. If no, provide visitor with a test and ask them to test themselves in a designated area before proceeding with screening.

4. Take the temperature of the 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.

Attachment #2 Visitor Expectations Handout

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.

- Clean your hands frequently.
- Wear your mask properly (over nose and mouth) at all times.
- Stay in designated visitation area.
- Staff will help supervise you during visit and as you exit.
- Do not attempt to visit if you have any signs of illness.
- Social distance – please keep 6 feet away from others.
- Unless resident is vaccinated, no physical contact is allowed between residents and visitors.
- Please be courteous of visitation to ensure others are able to visit their loved ones.
- Should you be visiting a resident who has a “STOP” sign on his/her door please follow the directions on the sign (stop at nurse’s station prior to entering).

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.