

# Visitation Policy

**Policy: During the COVID-19 pandemic per local guidance, the community may permit residents to have visitors in Outdoor and/or Indoor settings in accordance with the guidelines as set forth.**

## **Procedure:**

1. Florida assisted living communities must allow in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
  - a. End-of-life situations.
  - b. A resident who was living with family before moving into the community and is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
  - c. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
  - d. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member.
  - e. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
  - f. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
2. The resident has the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The community must allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least two (2) hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the community.
  - a. Residents have the right to consensual physical contact with visitors they designate.
3. The community will publicly post their Visitation Policy in an easily accessible format on the home page of their website.
4. These policies shall outline hours for visitation, infection control and education policies for visitors, and additional health or safety procedures that visitors are subject to.
5. Providers are authorized to request a visitor to agree to the policy and procedures in writing. However, the policy and procedures may not be more stringent than what is required for their associates.



## **Visitation Hours:**

1. Residents may have visitors 24-hours a day unless the visitations infringe upon the rights of other residents including resident right to a peaceful environment.

## **Infection Control:**

1. All visitors must follow community screening and infection control policies while visiting residents within the community, including:
  - a. Utilizing hand sanitizer provided immediately upon entering the community.
  - b. Maintain sanitation by washing hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
  - c. Utilize hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
  - d. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
2. Postpone your visit if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing any of these symptoms:
  - a. Fever or Chills (temperature of 100.0°F or higher)
  - b. Cough
  - c. Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
  - d. Fatigue
  - e. Muscle or Body Aches
  - f. Headache
  - g. New Loss of Taste and/or Smell
  - h. Sore Throat
  - i. Congestion or Runny Nose
  - j. Nausea or Vomiting
  - k. Diarrhea
3. Visitation may involve limitations including duration, number, and age of visitors, days and/or hours during a day when visits will be permitted, and frequency, including the number of times during a day or week visitation may occur to accommodate visitation requests, help ensure adequate staffing, and help provide a safe environment.



# Face Covering Policy

**Policy: Community shall abide by the guidelines as set forth in the Florida Statutes, Chapter 408.824 Facial Covering Requirements for Health Care Practitioners and Health Care Providers and F.A.C. 59AER23-2. The policy includes procedures for Residents, Associates and Visitors as well as procedures for opting out of facial coverings under certain conditions.**

## **Procedure:**

The community shall require residents to wear a mask when the resident is in a common area and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission. A common area is an area within the community where residents are not treated, diagnosed, or examined.

Community must allow residents to opt-out of wearing a facial covering as per the Department of Health Regulation F.S. 381.026, The Patient Bill of Rights which includes consideration for:

- (1) The resident's right to make decision in an informed manner.
- (2) The resident's right to have their individual dignity respected, and their responsibility to respect the reasonable and responsible expectations of the provider or facility.
- (3) The resident's right to file a complaint with the appropriate agencies.
- (4) Community shall offer alternatives to facial coverings that may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

Visitors and associates may be permitted to opt-out of wearing a facial covering unless they are:

- (1) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- (2) In a sterile area or an area where sterile procedures are being performed.
- (3) In a resident apartment or clinical room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.



(4) Visiting or caring for a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident's safety.

(5) Performing non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.

(6) Community shall offer alternatives to facial coverings may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

