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## STANDARD

**TOPIC****Visitation****POLICY****General Visitation**

The facility encourages visitation for the resident's well-being.

The resident has a right to receive visitors of his or her choosing at the time of his or her choosing, subject to the resident's right to deny visitation when applicable, and in a manner that does not impose on the rights of another resident.

The facility will provide immediate access to a resident by immediate family and other relatives, or others of the resident, subject to the resident's right to deny or withdraw consent at any time.

The facility must provide reasonable access to a resident by any entity or individual that provides health, social, legal, or other services to the resident, subject to the resident's right to deny or withdraw consent at any time.

Reasonable clinical and safety restrictions include, but are not limited to:

- Keeping the facility locked or secured at night with a system in place for allowing visitors approved by the resident.
  - Denying access or providing limited and supervised access to an individual if that individual is suspected of abusing, exploiting, or coercing a resident until an investigation into the allegation has been completed or has been found to be abusing, exploiting, or coercing a resident.
  - Denying access to individuals who have been found to have been committing criminal acts such as theft; or
  - Denying access to individuals who are inebriated or disruptive.
  - Individuals who provide health, social, legal, or other services to the resident have the right of reasonable access to the resident. Facility staff must provide space and privacy for such visits.
1. Visiting hours are open on a general basis. There is no limit to the number of visitors or length of time for visits.
  2. Visitation policy will be posted on the website.

Privacy for visitation or meetings might be arranged by using a dining area between meals, a vacant chapel, office, or room; or an activities area when activities are not in progress. Arrangements for private space could be accomplished through cooperation between the facility's administration and resident or family groups so that private space is provided for those requesting it without infringement on the rights of other residents.

All residents have the right to privacy in their communications.

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#### Prevention of Community Associated Infections or Communicable Disease

Restrictions placed to prevent community-associated infection or communicable disease transmission to the resident. A resident's risk factors for infection (e.g., immunocompromised condition) or current health state (e.g., end-of-life care) should be considered when restricting visitors.

In general, visitors with signs and symptoms of a transmissible infection (e.g., a visitor is febrile and exhibiting signs and symptoms of an influenza-like illness) should defer visitation until he or she is no longer potentially infectious.

If deferral cannot occur such as the case of end-of-life, the visitor should follow respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette as well as other infection prevention and control practices such as appropriate hand hygiene.

#### COVID-19 Visitation

Visitors will be provided general guidance through signage and website to defer visitation if they are positive for Covid-19, have signs and symptoms, or have had close contact exposure.

Guidance regarding utilization of PPE and hand hygiene will be provided by staff when visiting a covid positive resident.

The designated infection preventionist and administrator will be responsible for adherence to infection prevention policies and procedures.

Residents may choose to have consensual physical contact with visitors.

Visitors will not be required to show proof of vaccination or immunization status.

#### Florida Visitation

##### Governmental Visitation Restriction "No Patient Left Alone Act"

In the event of advised governmental visitation restriction the resident may designate a visitor who is a family member friend guardian or other individual as an essential caregiver to provide in-person visitation. The facility will add the essential care giver to the residents contact list.

##### Designated Essential Caregiver

The essential caregiver or visitor will be screened, education regarding infection control practices, personal protective equipment, remaining in the resident's room

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and/or minimal movement throughout the facility and any other protocols recommended by Department of Health, CDC or other agency at the time of visitation.

A nurse or interdisciplinary will observe the visitor or essential care giver for adherence to infection prevention protocols. Those that refuse to comply, will be asked to comply, or asked to exit the facility.

The essential caregiver or visitor may stay for a maximum of 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation, visitors may have consensual physical contact with the resident.

The essential caregiver is not required to provide necessary care to the resident. May not require visitors submit proof of any vaccination or immunization. The facility must allow visitation under the following circumstances;

- End-of-life situations.
- A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
- The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
- A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
- A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
- A resident or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.

In person visitation may be suspended if the visitor violates the policies and procedures.