

WEEKLY UPDATE / CHANGE IN VISITATION STATUS

8/11/2021

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Currently in the Facility

Staff: 0

Residents: 0

Date of Last Newly Confirmed COVID-19 Case:

7/27/2021

Visitation Status:

Fairfield has conducted our second round of outbreak testing and are happy to report that we did not identify any new positive cases of Covid-19. This letter is to inform you that the Anne Arundel County Department of Health has concluded the investigation initiated with Fairfield Nursing and Rehab Center on July 27, 2021, in response to a COVID-19 outbreak at Fairfield. Visitation is now allowed to resume on all units/floors. Please see Core Principles of Covid-19 Infection Prevention and Fairfield's Visitation plan below:

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

1. The facility will ensure core principles of COVID-19 infection preventions to include:
 - A. Screening of all visitors when entering the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 to include temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs and symptoms. Any visitor with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days will be denied entry to the facility regardless of the visitor's vaccination status.
 - B. Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub on entry and throughout visit when appropriate) The use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred.
 - C. Face coverings or mask that covers the mouth and nose.
 - D. Social distancing at all times during the visit of at least six feet apart, in accordance with the CDC guidance.
 - E. Instructional signage throughout the facility and visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, use of face coverings/mask, specific entry and exits, routes to take during visitation, and hand hygiene.
 - F. Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces and designated visitation area after each visit.

- G. Facility staff use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- H. Facility must have designated areas for cohorting residents (quarantine, step-down, and COVID unit).
- I. Resident and staff testing per CMS regulation.
2. The facility will adhere to the above core principles at all times.
 3. The facility will conduct visitation that is person-centered and considers resident's physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being and quality of life.
 4. The facility may use physical barriers such as, Plexiglas dividers or curtains to reduce the risk of transmission during visitation.
 5. The facility will conduct visitation that allows residents to privacy during visits.
 6. The facility will not allow visitors to enter who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention or will be asked to leave.
 7. Facility staff will provide each visitor with the COVID-19 Visitor Waiver and Release for execution and will keep a copy in the resident's file. Upon request, Facility staff will provide a copy of the executed release to the visitor.

Indoor Visitation plan:

- Visitation must occur inside in our designated visitation area or resident's room.
- **Only 2 visitors are allowed per resident per visit. Visits will be kept to a maximum of one hour per visit. For residents with roommates 3 simultaneous indoor visits per hour will be the maximum allowed. In the event a resident or facility staff member becomes positive, indoor visitation will be stopped.**
- Items in the visitation area will be cleaned and disinfected between visits with an EPA-registered disinfectant for healthcare settings with an emerging pathogens or human coronavirus claim or a 1:10 bleach solution. Employee's will clean and disinfect according to the manufacturer's instructions and facility policies.
- No food will be allowed in the visitation area.
- **Recommended visitation hours are as followed: Monday thru Friday between 10 am – 8 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm.**
- **Visits must be scheduled by the family/friend of the resident with the facility's designated scheduler**
- Prior to and during the scheduling of indoor visits, facility staff will inform visitors of the visitation guidelines and rules including social distancing, facemasks, and method in which violations will be addressed
- Prior to being allowed entry into the visitation area, visitors will be screened. Facility staff will be stationed at the facility entrance/receptionist area to screen visitors and take temperatures and ask screening questions.

- Any visitor that fails the screen will not be permitted to visit at that time.
- Once the visitors pass the screen, the employee will go over the visitation guidelines once again to ensure guidelines are being followed during visit.
- The facility will ensure the staff, residents, and visitors adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection, including physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals.
- **Visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, should wear source control and physically distance (maintaining at least 6 feet between people) from other patients/residents, visitors that are not part of their group, and Health Care Personnel at all other times while in the facility.**
- Visitors are not permitted to walk around different halls of the facility. Visitors will be directed to the resident's room or designated visitation area. Visits that may infringe on another patient or resident's rights are held in a location other than the shared room. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, in-room visitation will be allowed only if the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention can be adhered to.
- The visitation will be stopped immediately, visitors will be asked to leave the premises, and the resident will be placed on quarantine per CMS guidelines, if appropriate distancing is not maintained and/or visitor breaches precautionary guidelines.
- Any person who is found to be in the facility without a legitimate purpose may be asked to leave. In the case of resistant or combative behavior, the Administrator or designee may opt to request police or other law enforcement assistance.
- The facility reserves the right to require supervised visitation and/or to restrict visitation to a time and area of the building when:
 - A. A visitor's behavior requires intervention by security personnel or police
 - B. A judicial restraining order against a visitor is obtained.
- Visitors are subject to the patient/resident's right to deny or withdraw consent to the visit at any time. Documentation of requests are recorded in the medical record.
- We encourage visitors to be tested on their own prior to coming to the facility (e.g., within 2–3 days) with proof of negative test results and date of test.
- Residents who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 should only receive visits that are virtual, through windows, or in-person for compassionate care situations, with adherence to transmission-based precautions. However, this restriction would be lifted once transmission-based precautions are no longer required per CDC guidelines, and other visits may be conducted as described above.
- The facility will validate visitor's vaccination status on entry. Once vaccination status is confirmed the facility may allow residents and visitors to visit in the resident's room and have close contact without wearing source control if all parties are fully vaccinated.
- The facility will ensure that the visitor wears source control and physically distance from other healthcare personnel and other residents that are not part of their group at all times while in the facility.
- Physical distancing and source control for residents and visitors when either the resident or any of their visitors are not fully vaccinated

- Residents that are fully vaccinated may choose to have close contact (including touch) with their unvaccinated visitors while both continue to wear a well-fitting source control

Outdoor Visitation-preferred

1. Outdoor visitation is preferred even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
2. The facility will conduct outdoor visitation routinely that takes a person-centered approach and adheres to the core principles.
3. The facility will conduct all visitation outdoors when possible as it generally poses a lower risk of transmission.
4. The facility will consider weather, (inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality) resident health status, (medical condition, COVID status, quarantine status) or facility outbreak status prior to visitation.
5. The facility will designate an accessible and safe outdoor space for visitation (courtyard, patios, or parking lots with the use of tents when available)
6. The facility will limit the number of total visits allowed at one time and size of visits per resident to allow for safe visitation.
7. The facility will adhere to all appropriate infection control and prevention practices during outdoor visitation.

Indoor Visitation

1. The facility will allow indoor visitation at all times for all residents regardless of their vaccination status, except for the following circumstances that should limit visitation due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 - A. Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is greater than 10% and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated. In this case unvaccinated residents will be limited to compassionate care situation visits.
 - B. Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection. Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions, or Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine. In these cases, both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents will be limited to compassionate care situation visits.
2. The facility will ensure the staff, residents, and visitors adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection, including physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals. The facility may schedule visits for a specified length of time to ensure all residents are able to receive visitors based on the size of the building and physical space.
3. The facility will allow residents that are fully vaccinated if they choose to have close contact including touch with their visitor in accordance with the CDC's Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination, while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after.

4. The facility will ensure that visitors physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.
5. The facility will limit the visitor's movement in the facility. The visitor will be directed to the resident's room or the designated visitation area. If the resident being visited has a roommate the visit will be conducted elsewhere if possible. If the resident's health status prevents them from being able to leave the room, the facility will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention.

Physical distancing and source control for resident and visitors when all have been fully vaccinated

1. The facility will validate visitor's vaccination status on entry. Once vaccination status is confirmed the facility may allow residents and visitors to visit in the resident's room and have close contact without wearing source control if all parties are fully vaccinated.
2. The facility will ensure that the visitor wears source control and physically distance from other healthcare personnel and other residents that are not part of their group at all times while in the facility.

Physical distancing and source control for residents and visitors when either the resident or any of their visitors are not fully vaccinated

1. Residents that are fully vaccinated may choose to have close contact (including touch) with their unvaccinated visitors while both continue to wear a well-fitting source control,

Indoor Visitation During and Outbreak

1. The facility may still have indoor visitation even during an outbreak but there is evidence that the transmission of COVID-19 is contained to a single area of the facility.
2. The facility will immediately begin outbreak testing and suspend all visitation except that required under federal disability rights law when a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified. After at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed visitation may resume based on the following:
 - A. If the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas of the facility then visitation may resume for residents in areas with no COVID-19 cases. The facility will continue to suspend visitation on the affected unit until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.
 - B. If the first round of outbreak testing reveals one or more additional COVID-19 cases in individuals in other areas or units of the facility, the facility will suspend visitation for all (vaccinated or unvaccinated) resident until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.
3. The facility will continue all necessary rounds of outbreak testing.
4. The facility will adhere to infection prevention and control practices while indoor visitation during an outbreak.
5. The facility will consult with their state or local health departments during an outbreak to ensure adherence to infection control precautions, and for recommendations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Visitor Testing and Vaccination

1. The facility is not required to conduct POC testing on visitors. The facility may encourage visitors to be tested when facility is medium or high positivity counties. If testing the facility will prioritize visitors that visit regularly however, any visitor may be tested.
2. The facility may also encourage visitors to be tested on their own prior to coming to the facility.
3. The facility will not require visitors to be tested or vaccinated as a condition of visitation. This also includes visitors from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and protection and advocacy system.

Compassionate Care Visits

1. The facility's definition of compassionate care visits to include:
 - A. Resident who was living with their family before recently being admitted to the facility, and struggling with the changes in environment and lack of physical family support.
 - B. Resident grieving after a friend or family member recently passed away.
 - C. Resident that needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family and/or caregiver, is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
 - D. Resident that used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking, or crying more frequently with history.
2. The facility will allow visitation to the above situations that is consistent with compassionate care visitation and policy to include visitors or clergy or individuals offering religious and spiritual support.
3. The facility may also identify other situations of compassionate care and allow visitation per policy.
4. The facility will allow compassionate care visits and visits required under federal disability rights law at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.
5. The facility will conduct compassionate care visits using social distancing. If during a visit the visitor and facility identify a way to allow personal contact it should only be done following all appropriate infection prevention guidelines and with a limited amount of time.
6. The facility will allow residents that are fully vaccinated choose to have close contact with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after.
7. The facility will ensure that visitors physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.
8. The facility will communicate with resident, families, caregivers, resident representative, and the Ombudsman to identify the need for compassionate care visits.

Required Visitation

1. The facility will not restrict visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause.
2. The facility will facilitate in-person visitation consistent with CMS regulation.
3. The facility will allow residents who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 should only receive visits that are virtual, through windows, or in-person for compassionate care situations. The in-person visits conducted for compassionate care situations will adhere to transmission-based precautions. The facility will lift restrictions for residents on transmission-based precautions when the precautions are no longer required per CDC guidelines.

Facility Safety Precautions:

We continue to practice the enhanced safety precautions that are known to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as only essential personnel are allowed inside the facility and we screen them for signs and symptoms of illness prior to entering. Our residents are continually monitored and staff is using PPE as recommended by the CDC. Staff is frequently reminded and encouraged to practice social distancing and to use hand sanitizer and frequently wash their hands when they are in the facility and out in the community. We ask them not to report to work if they have symptoms of illness.

Thank you for your support throughout this pandemic, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly at (410) 923-6820.

Sincerely,

Charles Woodberry, MS., LNHA

Charles Woodberry, MS., LNHA
Administrator