

Visitation Guideline – COVID-19

Revised 3/23/2021

Recognizing the need to support the social-emotional needs of those we serve through the COVID-19 pandemic, and given the March 10, 2020 release of CMS QSO-20-39 Bethany Home Association of Lindsborg, KS will implement a Visitation Guideline as follows:

- When county COVID-19 positivity rates are below 10% as identified on the KDHE Nursing Home Metrics website AND over 70% of current residents have been vaccinated Indoor Visitation will be scheduled.
- All visits will be scheduled to accommodate screening and entry protocols.
- Visits will occur only in private resident rooms; visitors will avoid unnecessary contact in common use areas.
- Only two visitors will be allowed at each visit due to 6' social distancing requirements.
- Visitors must wear masks for the duration of the visit, residents should also wear masks for visits.
- Staff may escort visitors to the resident's room and to the appropriate exit door once a visit is complete.

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention for Visitors (Published by CMS and KDHE.)

- **Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19** (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days regardless of the visitors vaccination status.
- **Appropriate hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)**
- **Wearing Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose)** when practicable
- Social distancing of at **least six feet between persons**

Considerations:

- Indoor visits may be suspended during active COVID-19 outbreak and during COVID-19 outbreak testing protocols.
- "End of Life Visits" and "Compassionate Care Visits" will follow separate practices than "Indoor Visits" and may be permitted when Indoor Visits are not.
- Bethany+Village recognizes the risk presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the risks of social isolation in our resident population. Bethany+Village will prioritize the needs of those we serve while adhering to regulatory guidance.
- Outdoor Visitation with masks and 6' social distancing is considered the safest visitation option.
- If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after. Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff.

Types of Visitation Available

Following CMS and KDHE guidelines, three types of visitation will be made available.

1. In-Room Visitation

- **In-Room visitation will be offered only to residents who have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process.**
- In-Room Visits will be scheduled through Social Services.
- **Each resident will be permitted one in-room visit per week** to allow all residents a chance to see a loved one and to allow staff appropriate time to screen and review requirements with visitors.
- Visitors will agree to abide by all Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention
- In-Room visitation will occur Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
- Visitation times will be: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.
- Visits will be prearranged, by appointment only, and limited to 2 hour increments.
- In order to encourage proper nutrition and to comply with KDHE requirements, **visitation will not occur during normal mealtimes.**
- Families may bring pre-packaged snack items or gifts for their loved one, but **meals and snacks may not be shared during visits due to the requirement of mask use** for the duration of all visits.
- Recognizing that allergy symptoms may be similar to COVID-19 symptoms, family members may be offered a COVID-19 test prior to visitation and as a part of the screening process. Results will be provided directly to the visitor, and Bethany Village will not retain visitor test records.

2. Indoor Visitation – Visitation Stations

- Indoor visitation at a Visitation Station will be offered to all residents.
- **Visitors will agree to abide by all Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention.**
- **Visits will be scheduled through the Activities Department.**
- Visitors will be screened for symptoms of and exposure to COVID-19 prior to the visit.
- **Visitors are required to wear properly fitting and positioned face masks for the duration of the visit.**

3. Compassionate Care Visitation

- Compassionate care and end-of-life visits will be permitted when there is a demonstrated and documented need for additional in-room visitation.
- Compassionate care visits may be scheduled in addition to and outside of the hours permitted for In-Room visitation.
- **Compassionate Care visits will be arranged through Nursing Management.**
- Visitors will be screened upon arrival and agree to abide by the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention.

Skype, Zoom, and Video Calling are always welcome at all times and staff will accommodate requests as available.

Outdoor visits with 6' social distancing (weather permitting) are available and the preferred method of visitation.