

## **ANNANDALE CARE CENTER RESIDENT VISITATION POLICY**

Annandale Care Center understands that nursing home residents derive value from the physical, emotional and spiritual support they receive through visitation with family and friends. In light of this, CMS has updated its Nursing Home Visitation guidance regarding visitation in nursing homes during the COVID-19 PHE. Annandale Care Center has created the facility's visitation policy to reflect these changes.

### **POLICY**

It is the policy of Annandale Care Center that resident visitation will be conducted through various means based on facility structure and resident needs. Whenever possible, visitation will be allowed in resident rooms for those who don't have a roommate and there will be designated indoor and outdoor visitation spaces for those who can't have visits in their rooms. Regardless of how, when and where visits are conducted, there are certain core principles and best practices that remain necessary to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission: **Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention**

- Screening is required 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 to those with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status)
- Hand hygiene is required (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Well-fitting face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) required at all times. Visitors will be supplied a mask if the mask they are wearing is not well-fitting. Visitors will be requested to keep their mask for future visits.
- Social distancing of at least six feet between persons
- Instructional signage displayed throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of well-fitting face covering or mask, hand hygiene and specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas)
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO20-38-NH)

These core principles are consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for nursing homes and must be adhered to at all times. Additionally, visitation will be person-centered, consider the residents' physical, mental and psychosocial well-being and support their quality of life. Visits will be conducted with an adequate degree of privacy.

## **ANNANDALE CARE CENTER RESIDENT VISITATION POLICY**

Residents and visitors will not partake in eating or drinking during visits. Public restrooms are not be available to visitors at this time. Visitors who are unable to adhere to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention will not be permitted to visit and will be asked to leave the premises. By following a person-centered approach and adhering to these core principles, visitation can occur safely.

### **Outdoor Visitation**

While taking a person-centered approach and adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, outdoor visitation is preferred per CMS guidance even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated\* against COVID-19. Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow. Therefore, visits should be held outdoors whenever practicable. However, weather considerations or an individual resident's health status, may hinder outdoor visits. When conducting outdoor visitation, all appropriate infection control and prevention practices will be adhered to.

\*Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is greater than 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or greater than 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine per the CDC's Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.

### **Indoor Visitation**

ACC will allow indoor visitation for residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for in the following circumstances where there will be limitations required:

- 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
- Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection: whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria to discontinue isolation
- Residents in quarantine: whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine

ACC will allow two visitors per resident at a time and no children under the age of eight or pets will be allowed in the building. Visits will be scheduled in advance and be no longer than one hour in duration. Additionally, there will not be more than eight visitors allowed in the building at one time.

Visitors must wear a well-fitting mask at all times while in the building, will have a COVID-19 health screening conducted at the front entrance. On the visitors first visit, all visitors will receive education regarding the visitation policy including infection control parameters and well-fitting mask demonstration (See Resident Visitor Education Form). The visitor will sign

## **ANNANDALE CARE CENTER RESIDENT VISITATION POLICY**

the education in verification of the comprehension of the education provided and will be kept on record. If the visitor passes the screening, they will be escorted to the designated visiting area. Residents with private rooms may have visits in their rooms. If the resident has a roommate, the visit will be done in the designated visiting area. When the visit is complete, the visitor(s) will have been instructed to use the resident's pendant call system to alert a staff member that they need someone to escort them as they exit the building.

If the resident is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the resident 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.

Visitors are required to physically distance from other residents and staff while in the facility.

### **Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak**

An outbreak exists when a new COVID-19 case occurs with either a staff member or a resident. If this should happen, ACC will immediately begin outbreak testing and suspend all visitation (except end of life and compassionate care visits) until criteria to discontinue outbreak testing has been met.

### **Visitor Testing and Vaccination**

ACC encourages visitors to become vaccinated when they have the opportunity. While visitor testing and being fully vaccinated can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitors will not be required to be tested or asked to show proof of being vaccinated as a condition of visitation.

### **Compassionate Care Visits**

ACC will allow visits in those situations that match up with the intent of, "compassionate care situations" per guidance put out by CMS and MDH. In addition to family members, compassionate care visits can be conducted by any individual that can meet the resident's needs, such as clergy or lay persons offering religious and spiritual support. Furthermore, the list below is not an exhaustive list as there may be other compassionate care situations not included. Compassionate care visits that meet the definition and visits required under federal disability rights law, will be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate or an outbreak.

Examples of types of compassionate care situations include, but are not limited to:

- A resident, who was living with their family before recently being admitted to a nursing home, is struggling with the change in environment and lack of physical family support.

## **ANNANDALE CARE CENTER RESIDENT VISITATION POLICY**

- A resident who is grieving after a friend or family member recently passed away.
- A resident who needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family and/or caregiver(s), is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
- A resident, who used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking or crying more frequently (when the resident had rarely cried in the past).
- End of life visits

Compassionate care visits will be conducted using social distancing; however, if during a compassionate care visit, the visitor and the facility identify a way to allow for personal contact, it will only be allowed by following appropriate infection prevention guidelines and for a limited amount of time. Also, as noted above, if the resident is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, 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 personal contact. Visitors are required to physically distance from other residents and staff while in the facility. Through a person-centered approach, the facility will work with residents, families, caregivers, resident representatives and the Ombudsman program to identify the need for compassionate care visits.

All residents will be assessed on an ongoing basis by a multidisciplinary team for the appropriateness and need for a Compassionate Care Visit. When appropriate, the resident and responsible party/visitor will be notified and offered a Compassionate Care Visit.

### **Entry of Healthcare Workers and Other Providers of Services**

Health care workers who are not employees of the facility but provide direct care to the facility's residents, such as hospice workers, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, dialysis technicians, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, clergy, etc., are permitted to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to an exposure to COVID-19 or showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of screening. EMS personnel are not required to be screened so as to not delay them in attending to an emergency situation that they were called for. All staff, including individuals providing services under arrangement as well as volunteers are required to adhere to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention and must comply with COVID-19 testing requirements.

Original: 03/18/2021

Reviewed:

Revised:

T:Drive/Coronavirus/Policies/Policies Specific to SNF/Resident Visitation Policy 3192021