



November 19, 2021

Dear friends and families,

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ([CMS](#)) has lifted many of the pandemic visiting restrictions still in place at nursing homes. The new guidance instructs nursing homes to allow visits at all times. There will no longer be a limit of how many visitors each resident can have, how often loved ones want to visit or the duration of each visit.

Our main goal throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been to provide high-quality care and to keep your loved ones safe. We follow guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)), Pennsylvania [Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) and [CMS](#) as well as the latest [COVID-19 infection control guidance](#) with relation to its impact on our residents and visitors.

Visitations are no longer restricted as long as visitors pass screenings. Certain core principles and best practices will be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission:

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. Facilities should screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with the CDC.
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)

These core principles are consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) [guidance](#) for nursing homes, and should be adhered to at all times.

Visitation can be conducted through different means based on a facility's structure and a residents' needs, such as in resident rooms, dedicated visitation spaces, and outdoors.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with our masking and social distancing protocols for our facility. Our utmost priority is to protect the residents and staff and their families.

Vaccinations are proven to curb the spread of the variant and are a matter of safety as well as compliance with the federal government’s mandated vaccines for health care workers at Medicare and Medicaid facilities.

Our current rate for vaccinated residents is 97%; 98% of our staff is fully vaccinated. As of November 22, 2021, 100% of our staff will be fully vaccinated.

For information about vaccination rates at nursing homes, please refer to CMS’s Care Compare site through [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). Learn about [vaccines near you](#) and the [CDC’s fact sheet](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health recently released resources to help providers continue to encourage vaccine-hesitant residents and staff to consider the COVID-19 vaccine. The Department has developed a series of new vaccine hesitancy materials to help you and your team can leverage in your vaccine outreach efforts including:

- [vaccine outreach toolkit for long-term care facilities](#),
- [education one-pager for SNFs and AL/PC communities](#),
- [COVID-19 vaccination rate thermometer to track your progress](#)

Learn more about vaccine facts vs. myths with a downloadable PDF, blog and video blog, which are linked from our website’s COVID-19 page. Visitations are monitored and controlled based on the [CDC’s county view data tracker](#).

Our Facility’s Resident Impact (since the federal government issued reporting requirements on May 8, 2020, through November 18, 2021):

Number of cases	
19	ADMISSIONS: Residents admitted or readmitted who were previously hospitalized and treated for COVID-19
0	CONFIRMED: Residents with new laboratory positive COVID-19
0	SUSPECTED: Residents with new suspected COVID-19
80	TOTAL DEATHS: Residents who died in the facility or another location
30	COVID-19 DEATHS: Residents with suspected or laboratory positive COVID-19 who died in the facility or another location.

Your cooperation and partnership in maintaining a safe environment for you, your loved one and our staff is appreciated. Visitors that are not able to adhere to the infection control requirements during visitation will be requested to leave.

As always, we appreciate that you entrust us with the care of your loved ones. If you have any questions, we are always available for you. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Chi NHA