



Long-Term Care Visitation

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Purpose: To provide the residents with meaningful access to an essential care providers and visitors. The essential caregiver is classified as a person being within the circle of care, to assist with promoting the resident’s well-being.

This policy was created with the following principles: safety, emotional well-being, equitable access, flexibility, and equality.

Definition:

Essential Caregiver: An essential care provider is an individual designated by the resident or substitute decision maker to provide the resident with direct care. They can be a family member or friend but must be at least 18 years of age.

General visitor: An individual visiting a resident who is not providing an essential service to the home or resident

1. Essential care providers/General visitors do not need to be vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine to enter the home.
2. Children under the age of 5 years are prohibited from entering the home.
3. No exemption to how many residents can have visitors on the unit at one time.
4. No time restrictions for visiting.

Procedure: Essential Care Provider (Implemented during lockdowns – currently paused):

1. Each resident may have a max of 4 essential caregivers assigned to them. Two providers are permitted to visit at one time.
2. The essential care giver must be 16 years or older.
3. A list of essential caregivers for each resident will be given to the Long-Term Care ward clerk. Once named, caregivers may not switch out with other family members.
4. Individuals not on the essential care giver list will not be permitted entrance when the facility is in an outbreak.
5. The visiting hours will be between 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
6. Upon entering the building, the essential care providers will apply a surgical mask and be screened via the screener machine located at the main lobby entrance. If they answer yes to any of the questions, they will fail the screening and not be allowed into the facility.
7. When visitors pass screening, the machine will provide them with a sticker. Visitors are to show proof to staff prior to entering LTC that they have passed the screening questions. The ECP will show their sticker to the RPN, who will then

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check the ECPs tympanic temperature. The sticker will be placed on visitor's shirt so it is visible to staff.

8. Essential care providers will receive a Rapid Antigen Test in the designated room by the LTC treatment nurse three times a week. The essential care provider will wait 15 minutes for their results outside the room. If they are positive, they will receive a PCR test in the emergency department and must exit the building.
9. If an essential caregiver is to screen positive on the Rapid Antigen Testing, confidentiality is to be maintained. Infection Control Manger will follow up with the individual. Housekeeping must immediately be notified to disinfect the room.
10. Once on the unit, the caregiver must maintain social distancing from other residents while in the hallways.
11. Feeding will take place in the resident's room and not the dining room. ECPs are permitted to warm up food for residents in the dining room.
12. If the resident is on isolation precautions, the essential care provider will be responsible for wearing appropriate PPE while in the resident room. Staff will provide education on the proper steps of donning & doffing of PPE to the ECP.
13. If essential care providers need to use the restroom, they will use the public facilities that are located off the unit.
14. When essential care providers are done visiting the resident, they will notify the designated nurse or ward clerk. They will then proceed to exit the building through the front lobby.
15. Essential care providers can assist the resident with the following: support in feeding, mobility, transfers, toileting, communication/hearing, dressing, safety/risk management, cognitive stimulation, meaningful connections, relational continuity, and assistance in Decision making.

General Visitors (Gazebo/Summer Months):

1. There is no maximum number of visitors permitted to visit a resident at one time outside.
2. There is no age restriction in place for outside visits.
3. General Visiting hours will be from 1:00pm to 4pm and 6pm to 8pm. Only essential providers are permitted during meals & in the morning.

General Visitors (Inside):

1. General Visiting hours will be from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
2. Prior to the visit, visitors must apply a surgical mask and pass the COVID-19 screening. The screening will be completed via the screener machine located at the main lobby entrance.

3. When visitors pass screening, the machine will provide them with a sticker. Visitors are to show proof to staff prior to entering LTC that they have passed the screening questions. The visitor will show their sticker to the RPN, who will then check the visitor's tympanic temperature. The sticker will be placed on visitor's shirt so it is visible to staff.
4. Visitors will receive a Rapid Antigen Test in a designated room by the LTC treatment nurse three times a week. The visitor will wait 15 minutes for their results outside the room. If they are positive, they will receive a PCR test in the emergency department and must exit the building.
5. If a visitor is to screen positive on the Rapid Antigen Testing, confidentiality is to be maintained. Infection Control Manger will follow up with the individual.
6. General visitors will not be permitted to visit when a resident who is symptomatic and isolating.
7. If the resident is on isolation precautions, the visitor will not be permitted to visit.
8. If visitors need to use the restroom, they will use the public facilities that are located off the unit.
9. When visitors are done visiting the resident, they will notify the designated nurse or ward clerk. They will then proceed to exit the building through the main lobby and complete screening.

Palliative Care/End-of-Life:

1. ECPs and visitors must wear a surgical mask and pass screening to enter the home; however, any visitor who fails the screening, will be required to don full PPE (gown, gloves, mask, & goggles).
2. The resident may have a maximum of 4 general visitors or ECPs in the room at a time.
3. The resident can only have 1 visitor stay overnight.

Essential Care Providers/Visitors recovering for COVID-19:

1. Once cleared by the TBDHU, essential caregivers may resume visiting.
2. Essential caregivers must provide proof of their laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection, as they will not be required to receive a Rapid Antigen test until **60** days after their confirmed laboratory test.

Rationale: Individuals who have previously been infected with COVID-19 may continue to test positive on laboratory-based PCR tests for several weeks after their infection.

After 60 days, they will be required to resume Rapid Antigen testing prior to visiting their loved one.

Universal Masking

1. All essential care providers/visitors entering the long-term care home must wear a facility provided procedure mask to enter the home. Only exemption is the visitor provides proof of a medical exemption to the Infection Control Nurse Manager. All other visitors will be denied entry into the home if refusing to wear a mask.
2. Visitor masks can be removed when the visitor is in the resident's room **only**.
3. If visitors are asked three times during a visit to re-apply their mask in the hallway, sitting areas, or tv lounge, they will be immediately asked to leave the home.