

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daughters of Sarah Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Families and Residents
FROM: Mark L. Koblenz, CEO
DATE: November 17, 2021
RE: REVISED: Visitation Rules

I am writing to bring you up to date on the status of visitation at the Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. This past weekend, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”) released new guidance for family visitation in nursing homes. Just late yesterday, the NYS Department of Health (“DOH”) confirmed that New York nursing homes should apply the CMS guidance.

Therefore, starting tomorrow, Thursday, November 17th, visitation will now be permitted without the need to pre-register. Visitors can visit at any time during the day, and there is no limit on the length of any given visit or on the number of visitors at any given time. However, CMS has indicated that visitors ought to continue to bear in mind that all infection protocols - masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing - continue to be advisable; and that visitors should proceed directly to the visitation site, without wandering about the facility. Masks must still be worn in the hallways and communal areas, or in the presence of other residents.

All visitors must still screen themselves in the lobby. Anyone who has tested positive for the virus, is experiencing symptoms associated with the virus, or who is under quarantine instructions should not visit.

Additionally, if the community level of transmission as determined by CMS is “substantial” to “high”, all residents and visitors (regardless of their vaccination status) should wear masks or face shields, and socially distance during a visit. (Albany County is currently in a high zone.) However, if the resident and visitors are all vaccinated and the resident wishes to have direct physical contact, that is deemed permissible.

Given that infection protocols remain, and given the capacity of our various dining and activity areas, to ensure that all residents are able to eat communally and attend activities, visitors should not be present in the dining rooms during meals, nor attend group activities. Should you wish to dine with your loved one, arrangements can be made to do so only in resident rooms.

As before, residents are welcome to leave the facility to visit with family. Families are reminded that everyone should follow all recommended infection prevention practices while out of the building, including wearing face masks or coverings, engaging in proper hand hygiene, and physically distancing. Arrangements for home visits can be coordinated with your loved one’s social worker.

We recognize that the new guidelines are in some respects confusing and inconsistent. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with your loved one’s social worker. Again, wishing you a very happy and pleasurable Thanksgiving.