



Dear Residents & Responsible Parties,

This letter is to inform you of the most current issued guidance and recommendations regarding general nursing home visitation and is consistent with the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”) memorandum QSO-20-39-NH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. It is our goal to allow visitation for residents, families and resident’s representatives while adhering to core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention. We strive to promote and enhance the quality of life by implementing visitation to combat psychological impacts of isolation from families and representatives.

Core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention are as follows:

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., 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 visitor’s vaccination status);
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred);
- The use of face coverings or masks (covering mouth and nose) in accordance with CDC guidance;
- Social distancing of at least six feet between persons, in accordance with CDC guidance;
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID19 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);
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required.

Any visitor who is unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection preventions will not be permitted to visit and/or will be asked to leave the facility.

South Shore will now be allowing resident’s and families extended visiting hours. Visiting hours will now occur in the morning from 10:00am – 11:30am and again in the afternoons from 1:30pm- 4:30pm 7 days per week. Visits are no longer limited to 20 minutes, rather you will be able to visit anytime during the visiting hours and if you choose to stay, visiting ends precisely at 11:30am for the mornings and 4:30pm for the afternoons to allow for scheduled meal times. All appointments must still be scheduled with the Recreation Department at extension 2326 to compliance with visitation capacity as



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set by the CDC. There are approximately 10 available appointment times in the morning as well as the afternoon. All appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. Maximum of two guest may visit at each appointment for indoor visits and 4 guests for outdoor visits. If the resident is fully vaccinated,

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

they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with an unvaccinated visitor while both are wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after. If both the resident and their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated, and the resident and visitor(s) are in the designated visitation room, the resident and visitor may choose to have close contact (including touch) without a mask or face covering. Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility. All companionate care visits will be permitted as approved by administration.

Now that visitation limitations are less restricted, all **Skype** visits will be solely for residents who fit the below criteria:

- Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions; OR
- Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during these uncertain times and we look forward to continuing to keep you and your loved ones in contact and as safe as possible. Please feel free to reach out to our Recreation Department with any questions at (516)623-4000 ext. 2326.

Thank You



Akiva Fogel

Administrator

South Shore Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

