



Queen of Peace Residence Policy on Visitation during The Covid 19 Pandemic

POLICY

After the long hiatus of visitation during the Coronavirus Pandemic, it is the desire of Queen of Peace Residence to begin visitation for Residents, families and Resident representatives while ensuring safety and adherence to infection prevention strategies to minimize any potential spread of infection. This will be done in accordance with all state and federal guidance for the prevention of COVID-19. The following information is provided by the New York State [Department of Health](#).

PURPOSE

To promote and enhance resident quality of life by implementing visitation to combat psychological impacts of social isolation from family and representatives.

CRITERIA

Facilities in Phase 3 regions may resume **limited visitation and activities beginning July 15, 2020 and only under the following conditions:**

1. The facility is in full compliance with all state and federal requirements, state Executive Orders and guidance, state reporting requirements including COVID-19 focus surveys, HERDS and staff testing surveys, and federally required submission of COVID-19 data to the NHSN.
2. The facility has protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staff teams to deal with COVID-positive residents and nonpositive residents.
3. The facility has completed the NY Forward Safety Plan and submitted a copy of the complete plan to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov. The facility must retain a copy of the plan at the facility where it is accessible and immediately available upon request of the Department or local health department.
 - a. The plan must clearly articulate the space(s) to be used for visitation (outdoors and indoors) including the number of visitors and residents which could be safely socially distanced within the spaces to be used for visitation (outdoors and indoors) including the number of visitors and residents which could be safely socially distanced within the space
4. The absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or residents as reported to the Department on the HERDS and staff testing surveys and as reported to the NHSN for a period of **no less than twenty-eight days, consistent with [CMS FAQ's](#)**.
5. Adherence to written screening protocols for all staff during each shift, each resident daily, and all persons entering the facility or grounds of the facility, including visitors. Resident monitoring must include daily symptom checks, vital signs, and pulse oximetry.
6. A copy of the facility's formal visitation plan is posted to their public website and broadcasted via email or social media to provide visitors with clear guidelines for visiting and to announce if and when visitation is paused due to an increase in the number of residents and/or staff with confirmed positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

7. Limited visitation, including, but not limited to, family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations will be permitted.

PROCEDURE:

- Facility visitation will be conducted outdoors on the Fatima Patio Area weather permitting.
- In inclement weather such as high heat or in the colder weather and as facility space allows visitation will be inside, in a well-ventilated space such as in the Coffee Shop for no more than three residents with no more than two visitors each so as not to exceed the 10 person visiting limit. If there are two more residents with their two visitors, they may go to the Auditorium. The residents and their visitors must be socially distanced and wearing a facemask / face covering while in the presence of another. They will have to do hand hygiene before the visit. This may include residents visiting each other.
- Appointment for Visits will be made in advance and scheduled by Unit Supervisors, keeping in mind the limited number of visitors at any one time.
 - The facility will assign staff to assist with the transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant. (Virex 256)
 - The facility will post signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene and uses applicable floor markings for social distancing.
 - The facility will screen all visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access and visitation will be refused if the individual(s) exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms. This will include temperature checks and screening questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19, international travel and to states designated under the Commissioner's travel advisory. The facility must maintain screening question asked onsite in an electronic format and make it available upon the Department's request.
 - A log will be kept for all visitors that includes:
 - First and last name of the visitor.
 - Physical (street) address of the visitor.
 - Daytime and evening telephone number.
 - Date and time of visit.
 - Email address, if available; and
 - As per NYSDOH a notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.
 - Visitors and residents must wear a facemask or face covering (must always cover both the nose and mouth when on the premises of the facility). Masks will be available on hand for visitors as needed.
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- Visiting areas will have easily accessible alcohol-based hand rub, for residents, visitors, and staff.
- No more than 10 percent (5 residents) of the residents shall have visitors at any one time and only two visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time.
- Visitors under the age of 18 will only be allowed Window Visitation at this time.
- There is no visitation for Residents who are Covid +
- The facility will provide and post a fact sheet outlining visitor expectations including appropriate hand hygiene and face coverings. The fact sheet will be provided upon initial screening to all visitors.
- Residents will also be assisted to go outdoors with staff supervision weather permitting. The appropriate infection control and safety and social distancing requirements must be maintained.
- The IDT Team will review the Visiting program and monitor for any needed adjustments and report to QA Committee as needed.
- If any visitor fails to adhere to the protocol, he/she/they will be prohibited from visiting for the duration of the COVID-19 state declared public health emergency.