

## Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

- **Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19** (e.g., temperature checks, 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)
- **Face covering or mask** (covering mouth and nose)
- **Social distancing at least six feet between persons**
- **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 at 42 CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO20- 38-NH)**

# Fairhaven Retirement Community

## Policy and Procedures

Title: <b>Indoor Visitation for Skilled Floors</b>	Department: <b>Nursing</b>
Origination Date: <b>7/16/21</b>	Review Frequency: <b>As needed</b>
Reviewed by: <b>DON, Infection Preventionist</b>	Last review Date <b>11/15/2021</b>

### POLICY STATEMENT:

It is Fairhaven's intent to keep residents and staff safe in this post pandemic state and monitor visits and visitors to our campus

### PURPOSE:

Indoor Visitation for Skilled Floors

### PROCEDURE:

#### **Responsible indoor visitation includes:**

- **Screening** of all visitors upon entrance; we may deny entrance to anyone showing or reporting any symptoms of COVID-19, or anyone who has had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 during the previous 14 days. **Honesty** with reporting symptoms to us will be crucial for our successful and safe visitation. Visitors should report all potential symptoms to us, even if they are mild.
- **Medical Grade Face Masks** (We will provide) are required for all visitors at all times when in common areas; use of eye protection will not be required but, will be optional and available to all who would like to use it.
- **Maintaining physical distance** between visitors and all facility staff and other residents; residents may choose to have physical contact with their visitors, so long as the visitor performs hand hygiene before and after the contact and is wearing face mask appropriately.
- **Posting signage** throughout the facility reminding visitors of social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, use of well-fitting face coverings, and signs/symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Educating visitors** on the risks of visiting a facility that has any current cases of COVID-19.
  - While it is safer for visitors not to visit during an outbreak investigation, we will be allowing visitation during that time with education on core principles of infection prevention, to keep all staff, visitors, and residents safe.
- No visiting hours will be enforced with the understanding that visitors must answer all screening questions and temperature check when visiting.
- There is no limit to the number of visitors able to visit except to assure physical distancing can be adhered to in rooms. Large groups should call ahead to let staff make a room available for visits.
- If visiting a resident on quarantine, visitor will be considered exposed if unvaccinated by CDC/DHS guidelines, please understand exposure risks.

#### **The following guidelines outline how we will be applying this guidance to visitation within our campus and related procedures:**

- Because we must screen and educate all visitors upon entrance, our visitation hours will generally be during times that we have staff at our main entrances to complete those procedures.
- We do not have visiting hours and will attempt to assist all visitors as possible.
- We are encouraging all visitors to get vaccinated when available.
- All indoor visits need to limit any unnecessary travel throughout our facilities by visitors at this time. Visitors who are unsure of how to get to the person's room will be escorted there by staff. Visitors

will need to sign in and out when they leave, so they will need to come back through the entrance they came in.

- Please try to ensure physical distancing in our resident rooms
- As the weather allows, we will encourage visitors to gather in our lovely outdoor spaces, and there will be no restriction on how many people can visit at a time outdoors, so long as physical distancing can be maintained. Use of well-fitting face coverings will be required on all campus grounds, including outdoors, except for by children who are unable to comply with masking.
- We will attempt to accommodate visitation during meals if appropriate.
- Compassionate visits and end-of-life visits will continue as they are normally, during non-normal visiting hours, etc. Our social work team will continue to coordinate these special visits as necessary.
- Using the restroom and flushing the toilet causes potential viral particles to go airborne, making public restrooms a place of high risk.
- Visitors are welcome and encouraged to use any of our hand sanitizer stations/bottles during their visit but, are also encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for use immediately having any physical contact with any of our residents just in case there is not another facility bottle/station readily available.
- Due to the expected influx of visitors in SNF, please be prepared for some delay in getting screened in and to the person you are here to visit if we are experiencing heavy traffic.
- Children who can comply with using well-fitting face coverings will be allowed to visit, but there must be one adult present per child to ensure proper supervision and prevent any breach of distancing or masking protocol. Children who are unable to comply with use of well-fitting face coverings will not be able to visit at this time indoors. Outdoor visits with children who are unable to properly mask will be allowed. Children will be subject to symptom screening as well, and any symptom, such as a runny nose, will result in that child being unable to visit.
- Pets are welcome to accompany visitors, so long as they are leashed/restrained, potty-trained, and dog and cat friendly.
- **Anyone entering our facilities must notify us if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days of visiting us/our residents. Please Call 262-473-2140**

### **The following guidelines apply to taking residents out of our facilities for home/community visits:**

- All residents will be allowed to have home/community visits, regardless of vaccination status.
- Please notify us ahead of time if you plan to take your family member/friend off our campus so that we can communicate with all individuals who will need to be aware of that. Please contact the Nursing /Wellness department in which your family lives to notify us of such plans.
- Due to the need to continue to restrict door access to ensure all persons entering/exiting our facilities are screened in and signed out, we do ask that off-campus visitors use front doors to ensure proper screening. If an off-campus visit extends beyond our normal visitation hours, the person bringing the resident back will have to call second floor with the phone at the main entrance to summon staff for assistance with returning the resident. There may be a brief wait associated with staff responding, as those calls will go to our clinical staff who work “on the floor,” so please be patient.
- Church visits should be done cautiously, with social distancing, mask at all times, and good hand hygiene. If a resident is going to church, please call facility to alert staff of time resident will need to be ready for pick-up the day before.
- Home/community visits should be limited to private residences, private vehicles (such as going for a drive to see the sights), or outdoor public spaces (such as parks). Visits in indoor public places, such as indoor dining establishments, are strongly discouraged. If visitors want to treat their family member/friend to a food/beverage treat, we highly recommend that can be enjoyed in the car together. Indoor public spaces remain areas of high risk.
- No resident, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, should be taken into a private residence where anyone is currently ill or where anyone has had exposure to someone positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.

- Off-campus visits between fully vaccinated residents and other fully vaccinated individuals can largely be unrestricted at this time. Please observe all good infection control guidance, such as hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Off-campus visits between fully vaccinated residents and other who are not fully vaccinated should be limited to small groups, preferable from one household at a time. These visits require use of well-fitting face coverings and physical distancing to the extent possible, as well as good hand hygiene, cough etiquette, etc.
- If you are going out of the building to an establishment that is open to the public, we ask that you remain as safe as possible with face mask, hand hygiene, and social distancing to ensure safety.
- Please understand that the guidance changes and as we update, we will communicate accordingly. We strongly encourage you to follow and view our Facebook page (Fairhaven Senior Services) and Website([www.fairhaven.org](http://www.fairhaven.org)) for changes and updates. As our opening moves on Leisure Services will have the opportunity to add more activities for our residents. Along the same line, we may encounter unexpected challenges with implementing some of these practices, so please bear with us if we need to make regular tweaks to how we are doing things. We greatly appreciate your understanding, support, and patience, as we navigate through these next steps together. Safety of our residents and staff will always be our main priority, however we do understand we will need to ensure that our residents have as much freedom and encourage their social wellbeing while keeping them as safe as possible. While we hope we don't encounter any visitors who are non-compliant, disruptive, or aggressive; if we do; we will restrict access to such individuals and involve the local police as necessary to handle any disorderly conduct. Remember these guidelines truly do serve a purpose, and that is to eradicate this virus as soon as possible. Anything less than total compliance with these guidelines risks us having to scale it all back, and we very much want to avoid that and only keep moving forward.
- Our ability to re-open is a testament to science and the fact that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, as evidenced by the exponential drop in COVID-19 cases and deaths in LTC facilities since the vaccine rollout got underway. We highly encourage everyone to take a COVID-19 vaccine at their earliest opportunity, and to take whichever vaccine is available to you first.
- Thank you for all of the love and prayer that continues to come our way from the wonderful communities we serve! We have had such a traumatic year, but we feel so very blessed to have traveled this journey with the most supportive, kind, and understanding families and friends anyone could hope to have. This has been a total team effort, and we so look forward to the day that everyone who wants a vaccine has one and we can safely reunite in pre-pandemic style!
- If you have questions, please contact Karen Boyle, RN, DON or Dawn Blazier, Infection Preventionist