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Memorandum

To: Nursing Homes, Residential Care Homes, Assisted Living Residences, Therapeutic Community Residences, and ICF/IID

From: The Division of Licensing and Protection - Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living

Date: June 12, 2020

Subject: Guidelines for Outdoor Visitation for Long Term Care Residential Facilities


The State of Vermont is committed to protecting residents of licensed long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living also recognizes that residents of licensed long-term care facilities have been isolated for several weeks, which can have an impact on emotional and physical wellbeing. In consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, the following guidelines have been established to assist facilities to develop their own facility-specific policies regarding outdoor visitation should the facility be prepared and staffed to allow for outdoor visitation. These guidelines align with current Executive Orders with a focus on preventing future COVID-19 outbreaks.

Facilities that offer outdoor visitation must create and follow a facility policy that includes the minimum guidelines listed below; facilities may choose to implement visitation policies with more strict criteria. If a visitor is unable or unwilling to follow the policy of the facility regarding outdoor visits, visits may be suspended until adequate supervision or education can be offered and the standards followed.

Facilities are encouraged to continue to utilize creative strategies to encourage connection with families during this time to include telephone visits, video visits and calls, and other measures to combat isolation among residents and address families' desire for communication and contact.

These guidelines do not replace or change the current visitation guidelines which allow for compassionate care/end of life visitation for any resident for whom that is deemed necessary as per the Governor's original Executive Order. Those guidelines are listed in the Executive Order linked below.

<https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/EO%201-20%20Declaration%20of%20State%20of%20Emergency%20in%20Response%20to%20COVID-19%20and%20National%20Guard%20Call-Out.pdf>

1. Facilities must ensure the following procedures are followed: 
 - i. Visitations must be arranged in advance and scheduled with the facility;
 - ii. Visitors are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 immediately prior to any visitation with staff or residents of a facility. Those with symptoms must be excluded from visitation;
 - iii. Limits parties of visitors to no more than two persons;
 - iv. Each resident may only receive scheduled visitors once per day; and
 - v. All visitations must be documented and tracked, including maintaining a log of times and dates of all visitors, and their contact information.
2. Facilities must adopt policies to ensure compliance with the Governor's current relevant Executive Orders regarding out-of-state visitors to Vermont who intend to visit a resident.
3. Visitors (with the exception of children 2 years old or younger) shall be required to wear facemasks or cloth face coverings at all times during the visit. Facilities will require that visitors provide their own facemasks to utilize during the visit.
 - i. Residents will also be encouraged to wear facemasks or cloth face coverings during visits if they can tolerate them.
4. Facilities shall provide visitors with an alcohol-based hand rub/hand sanitizer prior to interaction with any staff members or residents.
5. The facilities will provide staff supervision as needed to ensure social distancing of at least six feet between people, and that other infection prevention measures are maintained at all times during the visit.
 - i. Facilities will develop and provide advance notice about facility-specific policies and procedures for safe visitation to scheduled visitors.
6. Physical contact between the visitor(s) and residents, including the passing of items directly to the resident and vice versa, is prohibited.
 - i. Any gifts or items to be delivered to the resident shall be handled per the facility policy for receiving and sanitizing items.
7. Facilities may limit times, dates, and lengths of stays by visitors based on available resources to ensure the proper care and safety of staff and patients.
8. Homes may place physical barriers or visual reminders/signage to ensure proper distancing during visits.

9. The same visitation approach, outlined above, may be used for allowing residents to visit with other residents, outdoors and up to 3 residents at a time.
10. Visitation for residents under quarantine due to being a new admission, recovering from a hospital stay, or for any other reason should not be scheduled for visits until that quarantine period is successfully completed.

We are currently completing our policy to open up for outside visits from friends and families safely. Details and regulatory guidelines will still need to be met for the continued safety of all of our residents.

We will be notifying POAs as soon as this process is completed, and putting it on our website.

Please continue to check the website: Thompsonhouse.com and on our facebook page.

We are anticipating our first visits to start next week.

Outdoor Visitation Covid -19

To Comply with State and Federal Guidelines for Visitation of residents in an out outdoor setting during Covid 19 restrictions. To Limit possible exposures of residents to outside variants.

All visits will be pre- scheduled.

Visitors may call to schedule an appointment from 10am to 2pm Monday through Friday.

Visits will be schedule on the hour and half hour and will be 30 minutes in duration.

All visitors will comply with our infection control measures.

They will provide a contact phone number for any follow up contact that may be needed.

They will provide and wear their own mask.

They will remain behind the plexi glass barriers at all times.

There is no physical contact permitted.

They will remain six feet from resident they are visiting.

All Visitors will complete a series of questions prior to visiting.

They will have their temperature taken.

They will sanitize their hands with provided sanitizer.

Residents will only be able to receive to visitors at a time and only schedule one visit per day.

Visits will be scheduled Monday through Friday from 10am to 12noon and from 2pm to 5pm.

These will be the only times available.

New admissions will not be eligible for visits until after day 14.

Covid 19 Visitation Questionnaire

Have you tested positive for Covid 19 in the last 14 days

Have you had Fever Chills or Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Muscle or body aches

Headache

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

New loss of taste or smell.

Have you been out of the state of Vermont for longer than 24 hours, if so have you completed the proper quarantine procedure.

Answering yes to any of these questions will disqualify the visitation for up to 14 days.

VISITATION FOR COVID-19		DATE:		
Resident	Time	Visitors		Temp
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