

HUDSON VALLEY REHAB AND EXTENDED CARE CENTER

Visitation Guidelines

POLICY

It is the of Hudson Valley Rehab and Extended Care 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 current state and federal guidance for the prevention of COVID-19.

Family members should check with nursing home staff before attempting to visit. Visits will be temporarily suspended if a staff member or resident has recently tested positive for COVID. If visits are allowed, there are limitations and restrictions designed to keep everyone as safe as possible.

PURPOSE

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

NYSDOH CRITERIA (revised 3/25/2021)

Nursing Homes may conduct **visitation and activities under the following revised NYSDOH guidelines.**

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.

1. 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.
2. 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 space
3. The absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or residents as reported to the Department on the daily HERDS and staff testing and as reported weekly to the NHSN for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days. Other standards may apply.
4. Adherence to written screening protocols for all staff during each shift and all persons entering the facility or grounds of the facility, including visitors. Visitors must enter the facility via the lobby and be screened which includes a temperature check. Visitors may present a verified negative COVID test result within the last 7 days prior to visit. If they do not have a test, the facility offers testing to visitors to help keep residents

- safe. Families may submit a copy of their completed vaccination cards but is not required to visit.
5. Documentation of screening will be maintained and available upon request of the NYSDOH.
 6. Resident monitoring is done on each shift -symptom checks, temperature and is more comprehensive when there is a COVID positive case.
 7. A copy of the facility's formal visitation plan is posted to their public website and any updates on a prerecorded dedicated hotline number 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.
 8. Visitation, including, but not limited to, family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations. If a positive occurs, the facility will test all residents. The unit the positive resident resides on or the staff worked on is not open for visitation.
 9. For end of life and compassionate care visits are permitted and will be discussed with residents and family members. A maximum of two visitors at any given during these types of visits. The facility will offer testing as well.
 10. For residents that are bed bound facility will allow limited visitation in rooms and is permitted in accordance with above screening requirements. No more than two family members will be allowed in resident room for 30-minute visit.

PROCEDURE:

- Facility visitation will be conducted in our main activity room during colder months and inclement weather. Residents who cannot tolerate outdoor visits will be permitted visitation indoors. We can accommodate 5 visitors per hour with a 45–50-minute visit in the main activity room and time for cleaning between visits. Visits will occur outdoors in our tented area and outdoor benches weather permitting.
- In inclement weather such as high heat or fall and winter months and as facility space allows visitation will be inside, in a well-ventilated space with no more than 10 individuals who are social distanced and wearing a facemask / face covering while in the presence of other.
- For residents that are bed-bound, reception will make appointments following the above requirements for an in room visit and alert the nursing unit. Families will be escorted to residents' room.
- Current COVID-19 positive residents, residents with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period or on transmission-based precautions are not eligible for visits.
- Visits will be made in advance and scheduled by Reception at the front desk.

- 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.
- The facility will post signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene and uses applicable floor or table markings for social distancing.
- The facility will screen all visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Visitation will be refused if the individual(s) shows any signs and symptoms of illness that is consistent with COVID 19. 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, documented and make it available upon the Department of Health'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/evening telephone number;
 - Date and time of visit;
 - Email address, if available;
 - Date of Negative COVID test within 7 days of visit if provided or if family requests a rapid or family provides proof of vaccination;
 - 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 for visitors as needed.
- Visiting areas will have easily accessible alcohol-based hand rub, for residents, visitors, and staff.
- Visitors under 18 must be accompanied by an adult and be able to wear face mask/face covering.
- Residents shall have visitors on any day based on the ability to accommodate safely or to meet the required 6-foot distancing. Only two visitors will be allowed per resident per day to assure all residents have an opportunity to receive visitors. Any larger accommodation must have prior approval by administration.
- The facility will provide fact sheets outlining visitor expectations including appropriate hand hygiene and face coverings. The fact sheet will be provided upon initial screening to all new visitors.
- Residents will also be assisted to go outdoors with staff supervision weather permitting. Staff Monitors are required for visitation to assure appropriate infection control and safety and social distancing requirements is 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.
- Visitation is based on the ability to maintain the core principles of infection control.
- The facility is not open to the public without a visit scheduled.

Indoor / Outdoor Visitation

Outdoor Visitation: HVRECC takes a person-centered approach and will adhere to the core principles of COVID -19 infection prevention.

As much as possible, outdoor visitation will be encouraged by HVRECC and the preferred method to reduce the risk of transmission. Outdoor visits will occur whenever practicable. Weather considerations or individual resident health status may hinder outdoor visiting and the facility will create an accessible area for indoor visits. Outdoor visits will be on the facility patios, with the use of tents and umbrellas. All appropriate infection control and prevention practices will be adhered to.

Indoor Visitation: HVRECC will allow indoor visitation for all residents regardless of vaccination status, except when it poses a risk or threat due to COVID -19. Indoor visits will be held indoors in our main activity room during inclement weather. Compassionate care visits and personal care visits will be permitted at all times (see P&P) , indoor visitation will be limited for:

1. Unvaccinated residents, where the nursing homes county positivity rate is greater than 10% and when 70% of the residents in the facility are fully vaccinated.
2. Residents with confirmed COVID -19 Infection whether vaccinated or unvaccinated will be excluded from visitation unit they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions or
3. Residents in quarantine whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met criteria for the release from quarantine.

1. HVRECC will continue to schedule visits for hour increments (approx. -50-minute visit) to ensure all residents are able to receive visitors.
2. We will limit visitor movement in the facility.
3. If possible, visits will not be conducted in shared rooms of residents unless the health status of the residents prevents them from leaving the room.
4. The facility will allow a resident who is fully vaccinated to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well fitting mask and performing hand hygiene before and after the visit.
5. Visitors will be asked to physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.

Indoor Visitation During an Outbreak

An outbreak exists when a new nursing home onset of COVID -19 occurs (resident or staff). Visitation can still occur after testing all residents including routine staff testing if the first round reveals no additional COVID -19 cases in other areas or units of the facility, then visitation will resume for residents in areas and units with no COVID 19 cases. Visitation will be suspended on the affected unit until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing. If the first round of out break testing reveal one or more COVID -`19 cases in other area or units of the facility then visitation will be suspended for all residents vaccinated or unvaccinated until we meet the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.

* As of Jan. 11, 2021, HVRECC will offer Rapid tests to families prior to their visit in the COVID testing area. HVRECC encourages families to provide proof of vaccination status to assist the facility in keeping the residents as safe as possible from COVID 19.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/15/2020 KAC

REVISION DATE: 9/17/ 2020; 1/11/2021; 3/25/2021; 6/8/2021; 9/1/2021

HUDSON VALLEY REHABILITATION AND EXTENDED CARE CENTER

Department: Admission and Care Standards	Approved By: Kate Costello, Admin R. Johnson, DNS
Policy Date: 6/8/2021	Revision Date:

Personal and Compassionate Caregiving Visitors

POLICY: Hudson Valley Rehab and ECC will provide access to any resident or visitors of their choice, included but not limited to immediate family or other relatives of the resident and any others who are visiting with the consent of the resident.

PROCEDURE:

Resident Designating Personal and Compassionate (CCV) Caregivers

Definition: A “personal caregiving visitor” means a family member, close friend, or legal guardian of a resident designated by such resident, or such resident’s lawful representative, to assist with personal caregiving or compassionate caregiving for the resident. Personal caregiving is defined as care and support of a resident to benefit such resident’s mental, physical, or social well-being.

Existing residents will have the opportunity to designate individuals to serve as their personal and/or compassionate caregiver during a declared local or state health emergency by June 16, 2021 and on-going if undecided.

Residents will be entitled to designate two personal or compassionate caregivers at one time.

To ensure designated PCV or CCV remains accurate, the IDT and social worker facility will update designated personal and compassionate caregiver form (attached):

1. On admission
2. Every six months
3. Change of condition

Designated Personal and Compassionate Caregivers form will be placed and updated in the resident’s file in the Advance Directive section of the chart.

Frequency and Duration of PCV

1. Facility will determine frequency and durations based on the residents clinical or personal care needs.
2. In the event of a roommate, facility will stagger the visits to ensure the roommate has adequate privacy and space to receive care.
3. Facility will have sufficient staff to effectively screen and ensure infection control protocols are followed.
4. Facility will have sufficient supply of necessary supply for all PCVs.

Infection Control for PCV

1. Facility will provide PCV appropriate PPE for visit and will be required to wear PPE upon entry to the facility.

2. PCV will be tested (rapid on-site if available) or visitor will present a negative test from no more than 7 days prior to the visit.
3. Body temperature will be checked upon entry into the facility. Visitor will be denied access with a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. Health screen will be conducted on all PCV upon entry into the facility.
5. Except to provide personal care, visitor will be required to social distance during visitation.

Personal Caregiving Visitor that poses a threat of serious physical, mental or psychological harm to a resident.

1. Facility will document date of and reason for visitation refusal in resident's chart.
2. Facility will communicate to the resident and designated representative the decision not to allow visitation on same day of refusal.
3. Facility will refuse access or remove from the premises any personal caregiver visitor who is causing or reasonably likely to cause physical injury to any facility resident or personnel.

Personal Caregiving Visitor (PCV) Restrictions:

1. Facility will get written statement from the outside providers (physician, RN, licensed, certified social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist) in the event the facility has documented and has reasonable cause that resident will not benefit from PCV. This written statement from the provider will be maintained in the resident file.
2. Facility will suspend PCV if a public health emergency is declared due to communicable disease. Facility will communicate with the Department of Health to determine if local infection rates are at a level that present serious risk of transmission.
3. If facility is experience temporary inadequate staffing. The facility will alert DOH that the facility has temporary inadequate staffing.
4. In the event of an acute emergency situation
 - a. Loss of heat
 - b. Loss of elevator
 - c. Any temporary loss of essential service

In the event of a suspension of visitation, the facility will notify the residents, the caregiving visitors and the Department of Health Regional Office within 24 hours of visitation suspension. Additionally, the facility will for each day of suspension, documentation of the specific reason for suspension in Administrative Records.

During the suspension the facility will provide assistance to the residents to engage in remote visitation until the suspension is ended.

Compassionate Caregiving Visitor

Definition: Resident experiencing long term or acute physical, mental or psychosocial health conditions for which in the opinion of the resident, their legal representative, or health care professional a CCV would improve resident quality of life. The resident or their representative will designate at least two CCV at one time and facility will record designation on attached form and document in resident file.
The PCV can also be the CCV.

Residents Allowed CCV

1. End of life situations
2. Residents recently admitted to the facility.
3. Residents grieving from recent loss of friend or family.
4. Resident needs cuing and encouragement with eating or drinking due to family or caregiver previously provided and residents is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
5. Resident who is experiencing emotional distress.
6. CCV shall be permitted at all times, except for the following instances
 - a. If visitor cannot produce a negative test on-site or no more than 7 days prior to visit
 - b. Temperature is greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - c. Health screen shows signs and symptoms of communicable disease subject to the declared public health emergency
 - d. Failure to don appropriate PPE for visit with resident
 - e. Failure to socially distance except as necessary to provide personal caregiving during visitation.
 - f. Not adhering to hand hygiene protocols before and after resident contact.

