

**Wesley Health Care Center**  
**Visitation Safety Plan**  
*Effective June 27, 2022*

There are no limits on the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors at one time, nor does Wesley require advance scheduling for in-person visits. Though, the resident has a right to receive visitors of his or her choosing, at the time of his or her choosing, as well as has the right to deny visitation at any time. Visits must be conducted in a manner that does not impose on the rights of another resident/roommate and does not infringe upon infection control requirements. Wesley asks that visits be conducted at a reasonable time of day/evening, that will not interfere with the resident or roommates (if applicable) daily routine, unless requested by the resident. **Overnight stays are not permitted unless end of life situations arise.**

**ALL VISITORS REQUIRE PROOF OF A NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST UPON ARRIVAL**

*WHCC must verify that each visitor entering the facility (Visitors include family, friends, vendors, entertainers, chaplains) has a negative SARS-CoV-2 test result presented to WHCC staff.*

**RECOMMENDED VISITING HOURS:** 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

**Visitor testing requires acknowledgement from the facility upon entry. These times have been chosen to ensure a front desk screener is available to review test results at the door.**

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**Visitor Entry**

- **All visitors must enter AND exit at the Springs Main Entrance.**
- Visitors should never open doors for other visitors to enter at side entrances.
- Visitors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
- Well-behaved dogs are permitted, **except** for quarantine units **OR** if your loved one is currently on isolation for any reason.

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**Visitor Testing**

**Test Timeframe:**

The NYS Department of Health requires that a COVID test must be conducted **one day prior to visitation for antigen tests and two days prior to visitation for NAAT (e.g. PCR) tests. All visitors may use either NAAT (PCR) testing or antigen (Rapid) testing.**

- For example, A test for a Sunday visit should be conducted no earlier than Saturday if it's an antigen test or Friday if it's a PCR test.
- **For visitors who visit for multiple days**, including a visitor who comes every day, proof of negative testing is required, every third day (meaning testing is required on day one, day 4, day 7, and so on).

**Testing Supplies & Test Validation Process:**

- A visitor may conduct a COVID-19 test prior to their visit and bring proof of the negative result with them. The test should be taken the same day of the visit or within 24 hours of the visit for rapid tests.
  - WHCC prefers the proof of a negative test result be in the form of a picture, rather than a test strip, due to infection control reasons.
- Testing supplies will be provided to all visitors if a visitor is not able secure supplies from the community.
- **Tests taken onsite should be conducted in the visitor's car, and the visitor should remain out of the facility while pending their results.** Visitors who may have difficulty conducting their own test are asked to bring an additional individual to assist them **OR** are encouraged to come to the facility prior to visiting to pick up a kit to be used at home immediately prior to their visit.

- All visitors are required to sign-in/out and follow screening procedures upon entry/exit at the Springs Main Entrance. Visitors must be screened for a temperature, signs, and symptoms of COVID-19 upon entry. All visitors will be required to present a COVID negative test result and sign an attestation upon sign-in to confirm they have met the testing requirements. All visitors are encouraged to be vaccinated. Showing proof of vaccination will not be required as a condition to the visit.

**Positive Results and Infection within Prior 90 Days:**

- If a visitor tests positive outside the building, he/she **should not** return to the building to display the positive result.
- If a visitor has had COVID in the past 90 days, he/she **must still be tested**.
- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, will not be allowed to enter the facility until they meet the criteria used for residents to discontinue transmission-based precautions (quarantine).

**Testing Exemptions:**

- Ombudsman representatives and DOH Surveyors. Under certain circumstances, the resident and ombudsman should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting, and the visit should take place in the resident’s room.
- Compassionate care visitors will be approved by the care team to bypass the testing requirement for ‘**immediate or urgent end of life situations, a sudden decline in a resident’s condition requiring immediate visitation or a critical situation regarding a resident**’ on a limited basis.’ With a goal of limiting spread among long-term care facilities through ongoing visitor testing, regular visitors who consistently visit for ongoing resident needs should be required to follow the current NYS DOH visitor testing requirement and should not be exempt from this requirement.
- Emergency Medical Services personnel.

**Visitor Notice for Facility Safety**

- **If you have recently traveled out of state, please consider refraining from visiting for at least 10 days from the date of return to the state to ensure no symptoms arise.**
- **If you are feeling ill or have had a fever, please refrain from visiting until you are fever free for at least a 24-hour period without fever reducing medications and until symptoms have subsided.**
- **Visitors who have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case in the community should consider not visiting for a total of 10 days following the last day of exposure, no matter their vaccination status to ensure optimal safety for our residents and staff.**
- **Visitors who have tested positive for COVID-19 are not allowed entry until a negative test is received and after the individual has completed their quarantine period according to CDC requirements in the community. Out of an abundance of caution, WHCC recommends visitors consider not visiting for at minimum 10 days following the date in which you tested positive. If you have tested positive within 72 hours of your visit with your loved one, please notify our Infection Preventionist as soon as possible at 518-691-1428.**

**Visitor Masking & Social Distancing Requirements**

**Visits must be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents. Due to this, the following requirements are in place:**

- All visitors (for anyone over the age of 2) must wear a well-fitting surgical mask or a mask of higher quality (i.e., KN95, or N95) **at all times** during any visitation at the facility. **Cloth masks, Scarves, Buffs, Gators, or Masks with vents/valves are not permitted as appropriate masks. Just wearing a face shield is not permitted.**
- Resident masking is required by all residents traveling off the unit for any reason, no matter vaccination status.

- Visitors should limit travel around the facility, *for example: Visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility, but rather go directly to their loved one's room or designated visitation space.* Traveling around the ground floor of the facility is permitted with appropriate masking by both visitor and resident unless residing on a quarantine unit.
- Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of required infection prevention, or those not willing to follow screening and sign-in procedures will not be permitted to visit.

**Wesley must ensure that physical distancing can still be maintained during peak times of visitation (e.g., lunch time, after business hours, etc.). Due to this, the following requirements are in place:**

- Dining rooms are limited in capacity to visitors ensure social distancing can occur.
- Communal dining spaces will be limited to one visitor per resident during all meal service activities. During mealtimes (8a – 9a, 12p -1p, 5p -6p), if more than one visitor is present, visitors are asked to visit with their loved one in the resident's room and not in the communal dining areas.
- All visitors must physically distance from facility personnel and other patients/residents/visitors who are not directly associated with the specific resident(s) being visited by that individual.

*Large gatherings (e.g., groups over 5, parties, events) are not permitted to take place on the unit. Please inquire to your Unit Coordinator, Social Worker or Life Enrichment assistant for coordinating the use of an alternative gathering space in the facility.*

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## **Visitation Location Requirements**

### **Indoor and Outdoor Visitation:**

- Outdoor or indoor private location visits are highly recommended for all visits (Such as lounges, porches, areas on the ground floor, or if not in use at the time of the visit- dining rooms. During summer and spring months, visitors may utilize areas such as Springs or Hathorn courtyards, porches/patios, or alternative areas on campus.
- Indoor visits may occur in the resident's room at any time.
  - If a resident's roommate is unvaccinated, not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status), visits should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible.
  - For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, facilities should attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention.
- Residents/visitors who wish to visit with a resident residing on another unit may do so unless the unit is under quarantine.
- Visits taking place within the building of Embury/Woodlawn is not permitted at this time.

**Off-campus visits:** Off-Campus visits may occur with appropriate masking, social distancing and hand hygiene.

- An off-campus visit can only occur AFTER a one-time therapy referral and car transfer training has been coordinated by the RN unit coordinator and approval is given. Please allow for at least one week notice to ensure training is conducted. This is a one-time observation with a therapist for any visitor requesting to leave the facility with a loved one for safety reasons. Please discuss your loved one's level of function with the RN unit coordinator prior to scheduling any off-campus visit.
- Residents traveling off-campus independently are permitted only after a therapy & nursing assessment is conducted, with proper masking and infection control education. This should be coordinated with the RN Unit Coordinator prior to approval.
- Please refer to Wesley's "Off-site Visitation Policy" for additional testing and quarantine requirements upon a resident return.

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## Visitation & Quarantine Unit Expectations During an Outbreak

An outbreak investigation is initiated when one new positive resident or staff case is identified. At that time, the affected units (those units who have come in contact with the positive COVID-19 case) will be placed on quarantine for enhanced monitoring for a 14-day period and require routine testing of both staff and residents.

### During an outbreak period,

- All residents who are ‘Not up to date’ with their COVID vaccinations must be placed on isolation until their 10-day quarantine period is completed.
- All residents who are “Up to date” with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses or residents who have recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 90 days, do not need to be quarantined or restricted to their room (unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19, or are diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection).

Staff members must ensure residents take all precautions to prevent ongoing spread of infection among the unit including;

- Resident masking for ‘not up to date’ residents when out of their room (if tolerated)
- Limiting capacity of communal areas (lounges/dining rooms)
- Maintaining social distancing among seating locations in communal areas (limit capacity per table/area)
- Resident masking during visits with their friends and family (as much as tolerated)
- While it is not recommended, independent residents (who are ‘up to date’ in their COVID vaccination status) may leave their quarantined unit, however, are asked to please limit frequent travel around the facility as much as possible. Trips such as to appointments, outings with family, hair salon, resident accounts, mail pickup, a quick stroll around the ground floor are acceptable with proper masking and if not on isolation for any reason. It is requested that these trips not be frequent to limit unnecessary travel around the facility if residing on a quarantine unit, however it is permitted.
- Resident masking is required when traveling off the unit for any reason, no matter vaccination status.
- Residents can still conduct outings with those who are willing to accept the risk, off-campus.
- All units are eligible for socially distant group activities, with increased resident hand hygiene, ensuring adequate distance between each resident and limiting capacity depending upon the space available.

**While it is not recommended, Quarantined units (units who have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case) are eligible for continued visitation,** however, to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and to ensure infection control procedures are maintained:

- Visitors are asked to consider no more than **2 visitors at a time per resident**
- **Visits must be short in duration (Up to 1 hour).**
- Quarantined unit visits are required to be conducted in the resident’s room for the entire visit.

### Visitor PPE requirements for Residents on Isolation:

NEVER enter a resident’s room who is on designated isolation without proper PPE, even if entering for a short period of time (i.e. For a visit, picking up a meal tray, asking a question etc. - All require proper PPE). This is a requirement by all visitors, staff, agency, contractors/vendors. Resident Isolation PPE signage is located in the top drawer of the isolation cart outside of the resident’s room identifying the proper PPE that should be worn prior to entering. Hand Hygiene should be performed when entering and exiting every resident room and in-between resident contact, as well as after changing gown and gloves. Please do not leave a resident’s room without disposing of your PPE first, while maintaining your mask in place.

**While it is not recommended, Residents who are on transmission-based precautions for confirmed or suspected COVID-19 may receive visitors who are willing to accept the risks of potential exposure** during the 14-day quarantine period. Additionally, will be required to wear appropriate PPE during the entire duration of the visit. Alternative virtual visits are available to prevent the spread of the virus that might take place with visitors entering and exiting the facility after a visit with a COVID-19 positive resident.