

Wesley Health Care Center
Visitation Safety Plan
Effective March 27, 2023

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. **Visitation is allowed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with the consent of the resident.** 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.**

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

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.

Visitor Testing

- All visitors entering the nursing home **are not required to provide a negative COVID-19 test** upon entry. However, to mitigate the spread of the virus Wesley will continue to offer antigen rapid testing supplies at the door for all visitors.
- Wesley highly encourages visitors to consider testing on their own before coming to the facility (e.g., within 2-3 days).
- If you do choose to test on your own, you will *not* need to provide the result to a staff member for confirmation prior to entry, this is based on the honor system.
- All visitors who choose to test at their own discretion may use either NAAT (PCR) testing or antigen (Rapid) testing.
- Tests taken onsite at the discretion of the visitor 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.
- If a visitor tests positive outside the building when testing at their discretion, he/she **should not** return into the building.

Screening/Sign in Process

- All visitors are encouraged to take their temperature at the temperature kiosk upon entry, however this is not required.
- All visitors are still required to sign-in upon entry and sign-out upon exit at the kiosk at the Springs Main Entrance.
- All visitors are required to answer all screening questions on the kiosk upon entry at the Springs Main Entrance. If you answer 'Yes' to any questions on the kiosk, please exit the facility and defer from visiting for a minimum of 10 days.
- All visitors are encouraged to be vaccinated. Showing proof of vaccination will not be required as a condition to the visit.

Visitor Notice for Facility Safety

- **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 - 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 (as much as tolerated) 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 require supervised visits.

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.

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.
- Residents/visitors who wish to visit with a resident residing on another unit may do so unless the unit is under quarantine.

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.

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 individuals 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.

Outbreak Visitor Restrictions: In the event of a facility outbreak or on the directive of the NYSDOH/CMS/CDC:

- **While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors will still be allowed in the facility.** Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and instructed to adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
- If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they will be educated that they should wear appropriate PPE during visits in isolation areas/rooms, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room or designated visitation area.

During an outbreak period,

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

- Limiting capacity of communal areas (lounges/dining rooms)
- Maintaining social distancing among seating locations in communal areas (limit capacity per table/area)
- Resident masking encouraged 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, 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.

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 10-day quarantine period. Additionally, visitors 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 by contacting the Life Enrichment Director at 518-691-1480.