Wesley Health Care Center
Visitation Safety Plan
Effective January 1, 2025

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
2 HATHORN RECOMMENDED VISITING HOURS: 9:00am- 7:30pm

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.
- 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 48-hours 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) based on the facility status of GREEN, YELLOW, and RED based on hospitalization rates in the county. **Masking status will be updated every Friday by noon each week and be effective until the next CDC update. All Masking requirements among the facility will be posted at the Springs Main Entrance on a daily basis and communicated weekly.**
- **Cloth masks, Scarves, Buffs, Gators, or Masks with vents/valves are not permitted as appropriate masks. Just wearing a face shield is not permitted.**
- Visitors should limit travel around the facility when visiting a unit where COVID cases are residing.
- Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of required infection prevention, or those not willing to follow sign-in procedures will require supervised visits.
- Residents and their visitor may share a meal together in the dining room or alternative locations of their choice.
- Residents and their visitors may attend large resident gatherings together and mask based on the current masking status of the facility at that time.
- During mealtimes (8a – 9a, 12p -1p, 5p -6p), if more than one visitor is present, visitors are asked to consider visiting with their loved one in the resident's room and not in the communal dining areas.

Masking:

Masking and infection control procedures will be managed and communicated through a designated facility status, consisting of GREEN, YELLOW, and RED statuses based on hospitalization rates in the county AND the total number of COVID cases in the facility. **Our current status, and any related masking requirements within the facility, will be posted at the Springs Main Entrance and communicated weekly. Each unit where a COVID positive resident resides will have masking requirements posted upon entry.**

Masks will be required based on the following STATUS-based approach:

TOTAL FACILITY-WIDE ACTIVE (RES. AND STAFF) COVID CASES	CDC HOSPITALIZATION LEVEL: LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
NO CASES	GREEN	GREEN	YELLOW
FIVE OR LESS CASES	GREEN	GREEN	YELLOW
SIX-TEN CASES	YELLOW	YELLOW	RED
ELEVEN + CASES	RED	RED	RED

MASKING Requirements for STAFF, RESIDENTS, and VISITORS BASED ON STATUS:

- **GREEN status is defined as–**
  - **Facility- wide masking is encouraged and recommended but optional for all residents, visitors and staff with the following exceptions–**
    - **For any new Staff/Resident COVID Case:** For each new staff or resident case identified, all staff members directly exposed to the positive resident or staff case based on contract tracing conducted by Employee Health, are required to wear a surgical mask for 10 days following the date of exposure and conduct routine testing on Day 1, Day 3 and Day 5 post-exposure through the Employee Health Office. *Employee Health will communicate directly to those exposed staff members and their supervisor.*
    - **For any new Resident COVID Case:**
      - **If Five or less total resident COVID cases reside together on one unit or reside sporadically throughout the facility:** Surgical masks would be required by **all individuals at all times** (Staff/Contracted Staff/Vendors AND Visitors) working on, traveling to or visiting the affected units**.** *Masking requirements would be posted on the affected unit upon entry.*

***IF* POSITIVE COVID CASES ARE IDENTIFIED:**

- 6 - 10 Confirmed Resident or Staff Cases will move us to **YELLOW** status regardless of the CDC Hospitalization Level.
  - **YELLOW Status is defined as- Masking is encouraged and recommended but optional for all residents, visitors and staff with the following exceptions–**
    - **For any new Staff/Res. COVID Case:** For each new staff or resident case identified, all staff members directly exposed to the positive resident or staff case based on contract tracing conducted by Employee Health, would be required to wear a surgical mask for 10 days following the date of exposure and conduct routine testing on Day 1, Day 3 and Day 5 through the Employee Health Office. *Employee Health will communicate directly to those exposed staff members and their supervisor that are required to follow this guidance.*
    - **For any new Resident COVID Case:**
      - **If Six or Greater total Resident COVID Cases reside together on one unit**: N95 masks or PAPR and eye protection would be required by all Staff/Contracted Staff/Vendors working on or traveling to units where resident COVID Cases reside, **at all times**. Visitors traveling to a unit where COVID cases reside would require a KN95 mask and eye protection at all times.
      - **If Six or Greater total Resident COVID cases reside sporadically throughout the facility**: Surgical masks would be required by all individuals (Staff/Contracted Staff/Vendors AND Visitors) working on or traveling/visiting units where resident COVID cases reside, **at all times**.

- 11 + Confirmed Resident or Staff Cases will move us to **RED** status regardless of the CDC Hospitalization Level.
  - **Red Status is defined as: Surgical Masks are required for ALL staff and ALL individuals entering the nursing home at all times.** Residents may choose their masking preference on the unit, however resident masking should occur when leaving the unit for any reason or if attending communal gatherings (as much as tolerated). Units where COVID cases reside will have PPE signage requirements posted upon entry.

- **Screening Sign-in Procedures will still be conducted for all staff, visitors, and vendors regardless of status.**
- **Regardless of the facility masking status**: Residents can always require staff/contracted staff/vendors/volunteers or their visitors to be masked when in their rooms or when delivering care or services to that individual. Residents who prefer individuals to mask will has this identified in their care plan and resident summary template.
- **For Green and Yellow Status**; Resident masking will not be required upon leaving the unit or when attending communal gatherings, unless residing on a unit where COVID cases reside, however social distancing still is required.

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:

- 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. This should be coordinated with the RN Unit Coordinator prior to approval.
- Please refer to Wesley's "Off-site Visitation Policy" for additional information.

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 enhanced monitoring for a 14-day period and require routine testing of both staff and residents.

During an outbreak that is occurring on a particular unit, all visits should ideally occur in the resident's room, the resident and their visitors should wear well-fitting source control (if tolerated) and physically distance (if possible) during the visit. Visitor travel throughout the facility remains during an outbreak, to only the location of the visit.

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, 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 ongoing outbreak of resident or staff cases, Infection control practices will be evaluated and communicated:

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 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 of a unit where COVID cases reside.
- 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.