

Dear Residents & Families:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has updated visitation guidance in skilled nursing facilities.

We are still required to follow the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention:

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. Samaritan Campus will screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred).
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) and physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance.
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g. use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit.
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH)

Outdoor visitation is preferred when the resident and/or visitor are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as outdoor visitation poses a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow. However, with the harsh winters we face in Wisconsin, we are aware that this will not always be feasible.

Skilled nursing facilities must now allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents and can no longer limit the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits. While it is not recommended, residents can also have visitors while on transmission based precautions and during an outbreak investigation. However, it will be the responsibility of Samaritan to educate residents and visitors on the risks and benefits of these visits and provide appropriate PPE.

The symptoms and temperature screening process will still remain the same and we all must continue to adhere to the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention.

We are excited to be moving in a better and brighter direction and look forward to seeing all of our visitors regularly! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. We will continue to keep our Campus Communication Hotline (262-335-4599) updated with the status of COVID-19 in our building. As stated earlier, if we are in an outbreak, we do not recommend visitation although it is permitted.

Thank you,  
Taya Walk, NHA  
Campus Administrator