

March 16, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

We are so pleased to share that, in light of new guidance released late last week by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, (CMS) – and because of the lower positivity rate in the County – AND the growing number of residents and staff that are vaccinated - **we are re-opening our doors to responsible indoor visitation as of March 17, 2021.**

This news comes a year (almost to the day) of when we needed to close our doors. We couldn't be more excited!! We know that you and your family are so anxious to be reunited!!

We will be welcoming visitors for all residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated) at all programs of our campus: the Health Center; the CBRF and RCAC.

Initial Visitation Hours will be Monday –Friday 9 AM -7:30 PM. Weekends: 8 AM-3 PM. If alternate times are needed, please call the front desk (262-335-4500) so that we can arrange for screening and education.

Please bear with us as we begin..... We are wanting to do this as safely as possible.

Visitors will be allowed regardless of the vaccination status. It is highly encouraged, however, for the safety of you, our staff, and our vulnerable population.

It will be necessary to be screened – EVERY TIME you are coming for a visit. We will help you learn how to do this and ask you to ensure you follow this procedure.

The guidance issued by CMS states that **outdoor visitation remains the preferred method of visitation**, regardless of vaccination status, as outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, visits should be held outdoors whenever practicable. This is also a great way to help residents get outside and enjoy the upcoming spring weather.

Samaritan Campus will have the patios set up and ready for you to visit in the near future! (We have a little outdoor clean up to do! Plantings will come as the weather gets nice. We would love some family volunteer help for both these tasks!)

We do understand that for a multitude of reasons, outdoor visits may not be the best option for you or your loved ones. The facility will be **allowing indoor visitation for all residents at all times**, with a few exceptions. These exceptions will include:

- Limiting indoor visitation if positive rate for either the County or our facility change which would result is us not being allowed to have these.
- Residents who are COVID-19 positive will not be able to have indoor visitation until they no longer are in transmission-based precautions
- Residents who are in quarantine (this includes the initial 14-day quarantine for admissions)

- If the facility is in an outbreak (1 positive staff or resident) until requirements of testing and time can occur.

Indoor visits will only be conducted in the resident's room or on the patios. **Please do not use any common areas or go room to room to visit. We know you know other residents here – but please help us with these first steps.** Please do not congregate in the hallways, lobby or by the elevators.

Visitors (and ALL staff) should enter the building through the main entrance on Washington Street for the Health Center and CBRF. The Fields RCAC visitors and residents may enter through the Fields main entrance.

Guidlines:

- **WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES!!** (This is a must. If you do not have a clean mask in good repair, we will provide you one.)
- **WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY!!**
- **SCREEN WITH THE ACCUSHIELD AND WEAR YOUR BADGE!!** (instructions to be provided)
- **PROCEED DIRECTLY TO THE RESIDENT'S ROOM**
- In order to allow for social distancing, each resident may only have **2 visitors in the building at a time**. Outdoor visits allow for two guests – making sure that all are socially distant.

Visitors will not be allowed to walk around different halls of the facility, be at nurse's stations, or interact with other residents. If visitors have a question for the nurse during their visits, they should put the call light on and wait for assistance in the resident room. If visitors have questions for other staff members (business office, social services, dining, admissions, administration, etc.) please make these requests via telephone or email. Visits to staff will be completed by appointment only to limit the risk of exposure within the facility.

We will say this again – as it is SO IMPORTANT!!

All visitors, whether indoor or outdoors, will be required to follow the Core Principle of COVID-19 Infection Prevention including:

- **Screening upon entry to the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (this will include temperature checks and questions/observations of signs or symptoms). Entry into the facility will be denied to those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days (regardless of visitors' vaccination status)**
- **Hand hygiene**
- **Face covering or mask will be required at all times.**
- **Social distancing of at least 6 feet is to be maintained.**

At this time, we will not be testing visitors nor requiring visitors to be vaccinated in order to enter the facility. It is however, the recommendation of Samaritan's Medical Director that visitors on campus be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to continue to protect all individuals from COVID-19 and any future outbreaks. We continue to strongly encourage you to obtain a vaccination as you become eligible.

Help us start slow and start well!

Please be conscientious of a reasonable length of time for a visit. We want all residents and families to get to see each other **in person**, and at this point, do not want to limit the number of guests in the building at one time, but also know the more people in the building the more staff are going to stretched and limited.

We need your help to be reasonable with the length of your visits – recognizing the resident status, therapy needs, meals, etc. We know you want the best for them as well.

You are allowed to take residents out of the facility we just ask that you check with a nurse first and sign the resident out at the reception desk before leaving. We are discouraging visitors from eating or drinking while in resident rooms so this is a good opportunity for residents to get out and enjoy a meal together.

Because of the new in person visitation, we will be discontinuing the virtual visits starting Monday, 3/22/21. We are needing staff to be available for some of these new functions. If you need and want to schedule a virtual visit, please contact our Therapeutic Rec department at 262-335-4533. Also – if you are more comfortable doing a window visit only, please call the main number to schedule that.

We are now asking families to restart picking up and dropping resident laundry off directly in the resident room. (Screening and masking required.) If families do want to drop something off without a visit, we will continue to do the deliveries to the residents at 11:00am and 4:00pm M-F and 11:00am and 3:00pm on the weekend.

For infection control reasons, we are asking people to bring their own walker or wheelchair if needed. These will not be available in our front lobby at this time.

We keep reminding ourselves and each other that this is a worldwide pandemic and it is not over!

Science and the safety of the vaccines are helping us tremendously uplift vital the psycho social wellbeing. **Please know that as we are making these steps and strides, we will be reviewing and updating as the days and weeks progress.**

Much more information to come – but for now – this is a great start!!

These words are said each week – with the utmost sincerity:

Thank you for your ongoing patience, support and understanding.
Together we can reunite a little at a time!

Mari Beth Borek

Mari Beth Borek
Campus Administrator
and the entire Samaritan Campus Team

Updates on our Samaritan Campus website: www.samaritancampus.com and the Communication Line:
262-335-4599