

March 5, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

Indoor visits are well underway! We appreciate the understanding from all of you in helping make this happen within the guidelines that we need to follow at this point. We continue to say that this all continues to be a fluid process!

Several family members have shared that “restarting” visits in person is a little more challenging than they thought. We recognize, at this point, that the environment is not ideal. Plexiglas and speakers, masks and distance are not the norm; but this is where we are with a “start”. Along with this letter, we are sending along some tips for conversation starters. These can help with dialogue – or if it is difficult for the resident to answer, the topics can certainly jog memories and emotion. We will have these “conversation starters” at each of the tables for your next upcoming visit. Let us know if these are helpful!

If you would like to schedule an indoor (or window) visit, please call our reception at 335-4500 during regular business hours. Available scheduled times are 10:30am and 3:30pm Monday-Friday and last for 30 minutes. **We ask that visitors having an indoor visit arrive 15 minutes early so we can have you complete the screening and self-administered COVID test, prior to the visit.**

We have no new COVID cases for either residents or staff. We continue to test staff weekly and are testing residents only when symptomatic.

Early assessments speak to the effectiveness of the vaccine. Our third clinic for the Campus was completed last week. We have 100% of our RCAC residents vaccinated; 93% of our CBRF residents; and 83% campus wide, along with about half of our staff fully vaccinated!

It has been awhile since we have provided an update of The Future of Samaritan. A Task Force was assigned and asked to provide a recommendation to the County Board as to: “Should Washington County remain in long term care business?” This group is composed of 7 members from the public that represent diverse interests, careers, and geographic areas of the County.

Speakers from the State, the field of aging services, community and financial experts have presented a wide variety of data to the Task Force over this last month. This past Monday, the group decided on a recommendation that will be going to both the Human Services Committee (March 24th) and the County Board (April 14th). The recommendation, summarized, is that Washington County should continue to provide long term care services. As this recommendation continues through the County process we will keep you updated. Additionally, you always have the opportunity to read about or attend any of the County meetings.

We love that we are seeing families in person again! A slow and steady start that is bringing smiles to many!

Stay staff and healthy,

The Samaritan Campus Team

The Samaritan Campus Team Attachments (2)

LET US HELP!

Some families have shared that it is hard to know what to talk about during in-person visits. We understand it HAS been a long time.....!

Here are some ideas of conversation starters...

- updates on children or grandchildren, even simple things- what grade they are in, where they go to school, do they have a new driver's license or a new car, are they recently engaged or expecting a baby, changes in jobs, new houses
- discussion about "favorites"- favorite season and why, favorite color, favorite movies and tv shows, favorite food or restaurant, favorite card game
- Memories- what was a memorable vacation you had, best childhood memory, memorable events with friends or family (wedding anniversaries, special birthdays)
- Years past- talk about the resident's younger years- their job, where they lived when a child, how they met their spouse, where they got married and how was their wedding day
- Hobbies- discussions about farming, classic cars, sewing, baking, gardening, breweries, travel, card games
- updates on an old friend, or people from your neighborhood

Try more open ended questions...

- What was the best lesson you have learned in life so far?
- How do you think the world has changed in the past 50 years?
- What made you happy this week?
- What are you most proud of?
- Are there any stories you would like to tell me?

Please reach out to either of our Social Workers: Sarah Palser (262-335-4523) and Sarah Johnson (262-335-4521) who are always very willing and able to help make these visits the very best they can be! We are glad you are here!

To our Residents and Resident Representatives,

We are pleased to announce the launch of in-facility visits! This long awaited visitation opportunity begins Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

Visitation at Samaritan will be in accordance with pandemic visitation guidelines set forth by The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS).

Key elements of the CMS guidelines are:

1. Indoor visitation may occur when there is no new onset of COVID-19 infection within the facility (resident or staff) in the last 14 days, and the facility is not in outbreak test status.
2. Indoor visitation may occur as long as Washington County's COVID-19 positivity rate is less than 10%.
3. Indoor visitation should be managed in a manner that reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This includes, and is not limited to: wellness screening of all visitors, visitors wearing masks, contactless (no touch), socially distanced visits in a designated space utilizing a Plexiglas barrier, and limiting the amount of visitors and duration of visit length.

The main contact for scheduling an in-person visit is the Samaritan Campus receptionist, 262-335-4500. Please call during normal business hours.

The assigned in-door visit times are the same as the window visits. Visits can be scheduled Monday- Friday at 10:30 am or 3:30 pm. The general guideline for in-person visit duration is 30 minutes. Two people are allowed in to visit at a time. No pets are allowed during indoor visits. We ask that you arrive at least 15 minutes to your scheduled time, so a rapid COVID-19 test can be conducted along with answer our screening questions.

If an in-person visit needs to be cancelled for any reason, a staff member will be in contact with you to reschedule the visit or go over various other options such as a window visit or virtual visit.

A resident who is on a 14-day quarantine period or has signs and symptoms of COVID-19 cannot have an indoor or window visit until their quarantine is over or symptoms have subsided. In the event a resident's health status prevents him/her from leaving their room, an in room visit may be considered.

We ask that you arrive to the rear of Samaritan. There is an entrance located by the East side of the patio. Families are welcome to park near the patio gates. The visit will be conducted on the ground floor off of the main patio. For those living in the RCAC, you can enter the front of the RCAC building. These visit will be conducted in the Fitness room in the RCAC.

Any items for residents, still need to be delivered through the main entrance of Samaritan. At this time, during the initial phases of opening up visitation, to safety and sanitation, the visitation space is solely for visitation, it is not an area for eating or drinking (resident or visitor).

These things listed above are fluent and can change quickly. If a change has occurred, we will notify families and residents. If visitors fail to follow the social distancing, use of personal protective equipment, or other COVID-19 related rules of the facility, the facility may have the persons access restricted or revoked.

It has been a LONG time – and we, along with all of you know this may be an emotional time. Our Social Workers are working on a communication of what you may expect; ideas for visits and the emotions surrounding this long awaited “next step”. Watch for this in your mail

Thank you for your ongoing patience!

The Samaritan Campus Team.

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