

Interim COVID-19 Visitation Policy

Policy:

This facility will allow visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel through different means based on facility structure and residents' needs, such as resident rooms, dedicated visitation spaces, outdoors, and for circumstances beyond compassionate care situations. The visitation will be person-centered, consider the resident's physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life. Exceptions will be in accordance with current CMS directives and CDC recommendations, or as directed by state government (whichever is more stringent).

Policy Explanation and Compliance Guidelines:

1. The Infection Preventionist will monitor the status of the COVID-19 situation through the CDC website and local/state health department and will keep facility leadership informed of current directives/recommendations and the need for restricting visitation if indicated.

Core Principles listed below must be followed for all visitation types:

- a. Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status).
 - b. Hand hygiene will be conducted prior to the visit and upon entry to the facility with the preferred use of alcohol-based hand rub and a single use sanitizer will be provided for use during visit.
 - c. A face covering or mask, covering the mouth and nose, will be worn at all times. A surgical mask will be provided for all visitors.
 - d. Social distancing of at least six feet between persons will be observed.
 - e. Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, and other applicable facility practices will be conducted.
 - f. Cleaning and disinfection of highly touched surfaces are cleaned regularly with EPA approved cleaners.
 - g. Visitors who are unable to adhere to these principles of COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit or will be asked to leave.
2. **Outdoor visitation** will be conducted in a manner that reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission as follows and is the preferred method even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19:
 - a. Visits will be held outdoors whenever practicable and will be facilitated routinely barring weather conditions, a resident's health status or the facility's outbreak status.
 - b. The facility will have an accessible and safe outdoor space in which to conduct outdoor visitation.
 3. **Indoor visitation** will be conducted in a manner that reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission based on the following guidelines. The facility will allow indoor visitation for all residents, at all times.
 - a. Visitation may be suspended in the event of an active outbreak of COVID-19.
 - i. Residents who are on TBP (Transmission based precautions) or Quarantine may still receive visitors. In these cases, the visit should occur in resident room. If possible, the resident should wear a mask and the visitor should adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. CCC will offer a well-fitting facemask or PPE, if available. CCC is not required to provide PPE for visitors, but will make attempts to provide.
 - b. When a resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised visits should not be conducted in room, if possible. Facility will attempt to make visitation possible by other means.

Cheney Care Center

2022

4. **Outbreak Visitation Guidelines:** When a new case of COVID-19 among staff or residents is identified, the facility will immediately begin outbreak testing.
 - a. While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak, visitors will still be allowed in the facility. In all cases, visitors should be notified about the potential for COVID-19 exposure in the facility (e.g., appropriate signage regarding current outbreaks), and adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, including effective hand hygiene and use of face coverings.
 - b. Residents who are on TBP (Transmission based precautions) or Quarantine may still receive visitors. In these cases, the visit should occur in resident room. If possible, the resident should wear a mask and the visitor should adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. CCC will offer a well-fitting facemask or PPE, if available. CCC is not required to provide PPE for visitors.
 - c. Window visits and visits using technology are not restricted or prohibited. Providers will permit window visits depending on grounds safety, resident privacy and choice, and facility capacity, case mix, and staffing. Providers will also assist with the use of technology to support continued social engagement during an outbreak.
5. **Visitor testing and Vaccination:** During periods of substantial or high levels of community transmission of COVID-19, Cheney Care Center may offer testing to visitors, if feasible. Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated however, it is strongly encouraged by CMS for all visitors to become fully vaccinated.
 - a. if visitors decline to comment about vaccination status, they must wear a face covering or mask at all times in the facility.
6. Visitors will be notified about the potential for COVID-19 exposure in the facility (e.g. appropriate signage regarding current outbreaks), and adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection and prevention, including effective hand hygiene and use of face coverings.
7. Compassionate care visits, Essential Support Visitors, and visits required under the federal disability rights law should be allowed at all times, for any resident (vaccinated or unvaccinated) regardless of the resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.
8. **Special considerations:**
 - a. Health care workers not employed by the facility but provide direct care services: Healthcare workers will be allowed to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to an exposure to COVID-19 or showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after being screened. Screening for fever and respiratory symptoms apply in accordance with surveillance procedures. HCW must follow facility policy regarding vaccination requirements.
 - b. Surveyors: Surveyors must be permitted entry into the facility unless they exhibit signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and should adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection and any COVID-19 infection prevention requirements set by state law.
 - c. Ombudsman: In-person access may be limited due to infection control concerns and/or transmission of COVID-19, such as the scenarios stated above for limiting indoor visitation, but may not be limited without reasonable cause. The core principles of infection prevention will be adhered to by the ombudsman and if in-person access is not advisable, the facility will arrange for alternative communication with the ombudsman.
 - d. Representatives of protection and advocacy systems, as designated by the state, will be allowed access to the residents both formally and informally, by telephone, mail and in person.

We ask that all visitors monitor for signs and symptoms of respiratory illness and report to the facility if symptoms are evident within 14 days after visiting the facility. If symptoms occur, or you test positive after visiting the facility please call the facility and notify of symptom onset and test result. Visitors who have a positive COVID test, symptoms of COVID or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility.

