

Resident Connection Programs
Good Samaritan Home of Quincy

Background:

The risk of COVID-19 transmission within nursing homes is high due to congregate living. At the same time, Good Samaritan Home (GSH) understands and acknowledges that restricting family and loved one's access to residents creates prolonged physical separation and isolation, which in turn may impact the health and well-being of residents.

Guidance:

GSH has implemented the following programs to increase the residents' connections with their loved ones. These programs include outdoor visits, indoor visits, compassionate care visits, and essential caregivers. All visitors and residents must meet the criteria for a specific program in order to participate in that program. The guidance for our Resident Connection Programs is attached. Each guidance outlines the criteria and details specific to that program and who to contact for information regarding the program.

Please note that outdoor visits are strongly preferable to indoor visits due to the increased space and airflow. If a resident and/or visitor does not meet criteria for one of our visiting programs, window and virtual visits are always available. Your designated social services aides are available to answer any questions you may have regarding these visiting programs.

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Indoor and Outdoor Visits

Indoor and Outdoor Visit Criteria

- Indoor and outdoor visits cannot be held if Illinois Region 3 is placed into a Tier 3 mitigation. GSH must wait 14 days after the Tier 3 mitigation is lifted before resuming outdoor visits.
- All residents can participate in indoor and outdoor visits regardless of vaccination status.
- Residents with an active COVID-19 diagnosis or residents who are symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms and are awaiting test results are not allowed to participate in indoor and outdoor visits.
- Residents in isolation and/or quarantine are not allowed to participate in indoor and outdoor visits.
- Visitors with an active COVID-19 diagnosis or visitors who are symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms are not allowed to participate in indoor and outdoor visits.
- Visitors who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive or suspected positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14 days are not allowed to participate in indoor and outdoor visits.
- Visitors of all ages are allowed to participate in outdoor visits. Visitors must be 12 years of age or older to participate in the indoor visits. Visitors 12 to 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult for indoor and outdoor visits. Visitors 11 years of age and under are not allowed to participate in indoor visits.

Indoor and Outdoor Visit Guidelines

- Visitation times are 7 days a week 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. Visits within these hours do not need to be scheduled. There are no time limits for the length of visits.
- All visitors must enter through the main entrance and screened before the visit. Visitors must sign in prior to the visit **AND** sign out at the end of the visit on the provided form located at the front desk. Visitors are required to sign in with their name, address, and contact information for purposes of potential contact tracing.
- A maximum of 8 visitors will be allowed to visit during the outdoor visit. However, only 2 visitors are allowed at a time to visit indoors in the resident's room or to transport the resident outdoors. If taking the resident outdoors, any additional visitors will have to wait outside.
- Outdoor visit locations are allowed in any safe location that is available on the GSH property that maintains at least 6-foot separation from other residents and their family members.
- Indoor visits will be held in the resident room unless arrangements have been made and approved ahead of time. Visitors are restricted to the resident room unless transporting the resident to an outdoor area to complete their visit.
- **All visitors must wear a face mask for the entire visit for indoor and outdoor visits, regardless of vaccination status.** Plastic shields may be worn, but you will be required to wear a face mask underneath. Masks will be made available to the visitors if needed.
- **If the resident is fully vaccinated**, the resident can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after. **If the resident is not fully vaccinated**, the visitor will need to maintain a 6-foot separation between themselves and the resident. Visitors should physically distance from other visitors not in their group, other residents, and staff at all times.
- Gifts and personal items will be permitted during the visit. Any food items will need to be enjoyed after the visit to maintain infection control practices during the visit.
- Failure to comply with any of these guidelines will result in the visit ending. Non-compliance could result in a loss of visiting privileges and a room quarantine for the resident.
- Administration reserves the right to cancel visits to ensure the safety of the residents and/or staff.
- If a visitor develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 72 hours after visiting, please notify GSH at 217-223-8717, ext. 4205 or 4227.

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Compassionate Care Visits

Compassionate Care Visit Criteria

- All residents enrolled in a hospice program will be eligible for compassionate care visits (CC visits). Approval by administration and/or nursing administration will be needed for compassionate care visits for any resident that is not currently enrolled in a hospice program and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Residents do not have to be vaccinated to participate in CC visits.
- Residents with an active COVID-19 diagnosis **or** residents who are symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms and are awaiting test results are allowed to participate in CC visits as long as the visitor adheres to transmission-based precautions.
- Residents in isolation and/or room quarantine are allowed to participate in CC visits as long as the visitor adheres to transmission-based precautions.
- Visitors with an active COVID-19 diagnosis or visitors who are symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms are not allowed to participate in CC visits.
- Visitors who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive or suspected positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14 days are not allowed to participate in CC visits.
- Visitors must be 12 years of age or older to participate in CC visits. Visitors 12 to 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Visitors 11 years of age and under are not allowed to participate in CC visits.

Compassionate Care Visit Guidelines

- Visitation times are every day from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. Exceptions to these times will be considered in certain situations. Any visits outside of these hours must be approved by administration and/or nursing administration. Visits within the allowed visiting times do not need to be scheduled. There are no time limits for the length of visits.
- Only two visitors at a time will be allowed to visit during the scheduled time slot.
- All visitors must enter through the main entrance and screened before the visit. Visitors must sign in prior to the visit **AND** sign out at the end of the visit on the provided form located at the front desk. Visitors are required to sign in with their name, address, and contact information for purposes of potential contact tracing.
- **All visitors must wear a face mask for the entire visit, regardless of vaccination status.** Plastic shields may be worn, but you will be required to wear a face mask underneath. Masks will be made available to the visitors if needed. Visitors must practice good hand hygiene during the visit.
- **If the resident is fully vaccinated**, the resident can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after. **If the resident is not fully vaccinated**, the visitor will need to maintain a 6-foot separation between themselves and the resident (except in end-of-life situations). Visitors should physically distance from other visitors not in their group, other residents, and staff at all times.
- Gifts and personal items will be permitted during the visit. Any food items will need to be enjoyed after the visit to maintain infection control practices during the visit.
- If a visitor develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 72 hours after visiting, please notify GSH at 217-223-8717, ext. 4205 or 4227.
- Failure to comply with any of these guidelines will result in the visit ending. Non-compliance could result in a loss of visiting privileges and a room quarantine for the resident.
- Administration reserves the right to cancel visits to ensure the safety of the residents and/or staff.
- Indoor CC visits will be held in the resident room unless arrangements have been made and approved ahead of time. Visitors are restricted to the resident room unless transporting the resident to an outdoor area to complete their visit outside.

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Essential Caregivers

Essential Caregivers Criteria

- Essential Caregivers (EC) are not general visitors.
- Essential Caregivers must meet an essential need for the resident by assisting with activities of daily living or positively influencing the behavior of the resident.
- Essential Caregivers may not provide care during outbreak situations in the facility or when the resident being provided essential care has tested positive or is symptomatic for COVID-19.
- The resident or guardian will determine who they want to designate as their EC.
- Residents do not have to be vaccinated to participate in the EC program.
- The resident may designate more than one EC to split their time in the facility based on the needs of the resident.
- ECs must be screened and COVID-19 tested according to the current facility staff frequency. The EC must also receive training by GSH staff on proper infection control prior to providing essential care to the resident.
- ECs must be 16 years of age or older.

Essential Caregivers Guidance

- EC approved times are every day from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. Essential caregiving within these hours does not need to be scheduled. There are no time limits for the length of visits.
- Only two ECs will be allowed with the resident at a time.
- The EC will maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other residents and staff and wear appropriate PPE when they are in the facility.
- The EC will be screened upon arrival to the facility using the same process as facility staff.
- The EC will receive training on proper infection control prior to providing essential care to the resident.
- The EC will provide care and support in the resident's room or in a facility-designated area. The EC must limit movement in the facility and ensure separation from other residents in shared rooms by use of curtains or partitions.
- The EC may take residents outdoors, while wearing appropriate PPE. The resident should wear a facemask, as tolerated. It is not recommended that the EC take the resident off campus. If the EC takes the resident off campus, the resident or resident representative will need to sign an AMA (Against Medical Advice) form prior to leaving.
- If the EC fails to follow appropriate use of PPE, social distancing from other residents and staff, other COVID-19 related rules, or any other facility policies, the facility may restrict or revoke EC visits. Facility staff will first discuss the violation and the necessary corrective action with the EC and resident prior to instituting any restriction or revocation of EC visits.

Essential Caregivers Contact Information

- To begin the process of becoming an EC, please contact Katie Bowen at extension 4214.