

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 visiting programs to increase the residents' connections with their loved ones. All visitors must meet the screening criteria listed in order to participate in visits.

Please note that outdoor visits are strongly preferable to indoor visits due to the increased space and airflow. If a visitor does not meet the screening criteria to visit in-person, window and virtual visits are always available. Your designated social services aides are available to answer any questions you may have regarding the visit.

In-Person Visits

In-Person Visit Criteria

- All residents can participate in in-person visits regardless of vaccination status or facility outbreak 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 outdoor visits. Indoor visits are allowed with visitors wearing the appropriate PPE.
- Residents in isolation and/or quarantine are not allowed to participate in outdoor visits. Indoor visits are allowed with visitors wearing the appropriate PPE.
- Visitors with an active COVID-19 diagnosis or visitors who are symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms are not allowed to participate in 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 visits.
- Visitors of all ages are allowed to participate in visits.

In-Person 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. Any visits outside of these hours will need to be pre-arranged by contacting your Social Services Aide or the charge nurse on duty.
- All visitors must enter through the main entrance and screened before the visit unless prearrangements with GSH staff have been made. 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 or prearranged location. Visitors are required to sign in with their name, address, and contact information for purposes of potential contact tracing.
- There is no limit to the number of visitors for each visit. However, GSH reserves the right to refuse visitors if visits cannot be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of infection prevention and control.

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- 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 can be held in the resident room, GSH common areas, dining areas, or designated visiting areas. If facility is in outbreak status and resident resides on an affected unit, visits can only take place in the resident room or outdoors. If the resident shares a room with an unvaccinated roommate who is present, visits should be held in another location on the unit.
- **All visitors and residents must wear a face mask for the entire indoor or outdoor visit, regardless of vaccination status, when the community transmission level is substantial to high. If the community transmission level is low or moderate AND the resident and visitor(s) are fully vaccinated, the resident can choose not to wear a face mask and have physical touch while in their resident room. Visitors must wear a facemask at all times during the visit regardless of the community transmission level.** 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 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.
- Visitors are allowed to visit during meal times. However, the visitor is not permitted to share a meal with the resident or remove their mask during the visit unless approved through administration.
- Failure to comply with any of these guidelines will result in the visit ending. Non-compliance could result in a loss of visiting privileges.
- If a visitor develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 72 hours after visiting, please notify GSH at 217-223-8717, ext. 4205, 4227, or 4214.

Compassionate Care Visits

Compassionate Care Visit Guidelines

- With in-person visits now being allowed, compassionate care visits will only be needed during special circumstances which would prevent the resident from participating in regular in-person visits or in the event that the state and/or federal guidance changes to restrict/pause visitation. Compassionate Care visits must be approved by administration and/or nursing administration on a case-by-case basis.

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.

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- 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.