

NURSING HOME VISITATION UPDATES

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, as well as the New York State Department of Health have updated nursing home visitation guidelines during the COVID-19 PHE, **effective 11/16/2021**.

- Visitation is now fully open and unrestricted for all residents. A resident may deny or withdraw consent for visitation at any time.
- Vaccination is not a condition of visitation.
- No advance scheduling is necessary to visit the facility.
- There is no limit to the number of visitors a resident may have.
- Outdoor visitation is preferred.
- Physical distancing will be maintained.
- Visitation will not be conducted in a resident's room, if the resident's roommate is not vaccinated or immunocompromised.
- Face coverings/masks are **recommended** at all times, despite vaccination status. In communal areas/activities, visitors must wear a face mask.
- If all visitors and the resident are fully vaccinated, and the resident is not moderately or severely immunocompromised, they may choose not to wear a face covering and have physical contact.
- Although **not recommended**, quarantining residents may receive visitors in their rooms. Residents will wear a well-fitted mask, if tolerated.
- In the event the facility is conducting an outbreak investigation, visitation may still occur, but adherence to the core principles of infection prevention is required, including: wearing face coverings/masks, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room.
- Residents that choose to leave the facility may do so, but it is recommended that regardless of vaccination status: a face covering or mask be worn, frequent hand hygiene using an alcohol based hand rub, and physical distancing.
- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine should NOT enter the facility.
- **All visitors are strongly urged to get a COVID-19 vaccine.**