

Policy and Procedure: Outdoor Visitation Guidance

Facility: Bridgeway Of Bensenville	Approved by: Shloimy Langsner
Effective: July 6, 2020	Revised:

This Policy may change or be revised based on CDC/CMS/State Public Health Department changes or recommendations

POLICY:

This facility recognizes the positive impact family visits can have on the residents and their loved ones especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. This facility will begin to allow outdoor visitation for residents when certain criteria are met. No visitation may occur inside the facility – restroom access is restricted; the facility will allow outdoor visitation only. Residents who are on isolation due to a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 or are symptomatic and suspected of having COVID-19, but have yet to test positive, may not participate in outdoor visitation. Each resident will be restricted to two visitors at a time. The following is the criteria and procedure to allow outdoor visitation for residents and their loved ones.

PROCEDURE:

- This facility must ensure that a minimum distancing of six feet is achievable in the outdoor space when determining the maximum number of residents and visitors who can simultaneously occupy that outdoor space.
- This facility must clearly communicate and enforce social distancing of six feet between the resident and all visitors.
- Visits must be limited to outdoor areas only.
 - For the duration of each visit, the resident and visitor must wear a face covering
- Visits may take place under a canopy or tent without walls.
- A schedule of visitation days and hours must be established, time limits will be established.
 - Our facility's schedule will be Monday through Thursday 1pm-3pm
- This facility has a maximum number of 10 visitors allowed in a single day.
- Visitations will be monitored by a staff member during each visit to ensure the use of face coverings and social distancing.
- Visits will be timed and can last up to 15 minutes
- Only 1 visitation will be scheduled per designated area in order to adhere to social distancing which is 6 feet apart between any two people.
- Adequate staff must be present to allow for personnel to help with the outdoor transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and wiping down visitation areas after each family, partner or friendship visit.

- Areas where visitors and residents sit must be wiped down between visitations using an approved antiviral disinfectant - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>. Allow extra time between appointments to allow for cleaning and disinfecting.
- The facility will prescreen visitors via phone with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) symptom checklist not more than 24 hours in advance.
 - Prior notice of “no restroom access” would be helpful.
- On arrival, resident visitors must be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID, including a temperature check (**non-contact temperature check**).
- Visitors displaying symptoms should not visit the facility
- Residents receiving visitors must also be screened with the CDC symptom checklist prior to visitor’s arrival
- There must be adequate PPE to permit residents, if they are able to comply, to wear a face mask during visitation. Visitors must bring their own face masks for visitation to not draw down on the facility’s stock.
- Outdoor visitation spaces must allow appropriate social distancing
- Facility must provide alcohol-based hand rub to families visiting residents and demonstrate how to use it appropriately if necessary
- Facility may establish additional guidelines as needed to ensure the safety of visitations and their facility’s operations
- Residents must have the ability to safely transition from their room to an outdoor visitation location
- Residents who have had COVID-19 must no longer require transmission-based precautions as outlined by the CDC
- Prioritization for visitation should be for residents with diseases that cause progressive cognitive decline (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease) and residents expressing feelings of loneliness. Loneliness can have deleterious consequences, including increased risk of depression, suicidal thoughts, aggressive behaviors, and anxiety.
- Residents who can should wear a face mask during the visitation

Visitor Criteria:

- Visitors must review and sign the Waiver of Liability relating to COVID-19
- Visitation must be limited to two visitors at a time per resident
- Visitors must schedule an appointment with the facility to visit a resident
- Visitation will be coordinated by: Tanesha Webster
- Visitor will wait in their car until it is time for their visit
- Visitor must not enter through the facility to get to designated area or to use the restrooms
- Must wear a face covering or mask during the entire visitation
- Must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visitation
- Must stay in designated visiting locations
- If social distancing is not adhered to, the visitors will be asked to end the visit

- Visitation should be restricted to children 12 years of age or older. Visitors with children must be able to manage them, and children must be able to wear a face mask during the entire visitation. Special family circumstances warranting children under the age of 12 to visit can be approved on an individual basis.
- Must sign in and provide contact information
- Must not have signs or symptoms of COVID-19; visitors must also attest to their COVID status (if testing results) and if they have had COVID-19, they must provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note) that they no longer meet CDC criteria for transmission-based precautions.
- Visitors may provide food and beverage to the resident consistent with dietary considerations, but eating and drinking during the visit is PROHIBITED.

Weather: Visitations should occur only on days when there are no weather warnings that would put either visitors or residents at risk. Furthermore, visitation spaces must provide adequate protection from weather elements (e.g., shaded from the sun).

The facility would still retain the right to deny outdoor visitation if they believe, 1) circumstances pose a risk of transmitting COVID-19 to the facility, or 2) either the resident or visitors might be at risk of harm.