



## **Assisted Living/ACF/ALP Visitation Policy**

Policy: Visitation for Assisted Living Facility Residents

Procedure: To safely accommodate visitors to Assisted Living Facility under NYSDOH guidance. Limited visitation will be allowed when the facility has met the criteria listed in the guidance and is in compliance with all reporting and regulations as directed by NYSDOH.

Based on the needs of residents and consistent with adult care facility staffing and the physical plant, visitation can be conducted through a variety of means, such as in resident rooms, dedicated visitation spaces and outdoors (weather permitting).

Regardless of how visits are conducted, there are certain core principles and best practices that reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and as such must be followed.

### Screening:

Visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID 19 upon arrival.

Screening must check for each of these exclusion criteria:

- measured body temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or more
- symptoms of COVID-19, as listed by CDC
- diagnosis of COVID-19 before completing the appropriate period of isolation;
- those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status).

Screening tool will be retained in the facility for at least 30 days for reference.

Visitor contact information will be gathered as a tracing tool should COVID-19 become prevalent in the facility. This information will be kept and filed for contract tracing reference.

Visitors will be notified upon arrival that if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 within three days after visiting, they must immediately notify the facility. The facility will follow current NYSDOH guidance for any potential visit related exposures.

Visitors will not be required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation.

## Infection Control:

Areas where visitors and residents meet will be appropriately disinfected between visitations using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

The facility will ensure that there is appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Visitors will be required to maintain social distancing and wear a face covering (covering the nose and mouth) at all times. The facility will provide a facemask if the visitor does not have one.

For in room visits with vaccinated residents and visitors, proof of vaccination is requested prior to visit. Once proof is documented, visits can occur in resident rooms. Visits with unvaccinated residents or unvaccinated visitors will occur in an outdoor space or a common area identified by the facility.

Residents will wear a facemask covering the nose and mouth.

The facility will provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer to visitors and residents, and staff demonstrate appropriate use.

Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention should not be permitted to visit or should be asked to leave.

Instructional signage will be placed throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices will be provided in a visitor fact sheet.

The facility will follow current guidance and NYSDOH interpretations to ensure the effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care).

Residents in isolation or observation, and residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 status, irrespective of vaccination status, should not have visitors outside of compassionate care or end-of-life situations.

These core principles are consistent with federal guidelines and must be adhered to at all times. Additionally, visitation should be person-centered and consider the residents' physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their individual quality of life.

Visitors will call and schedule a time for visitation.

Visiting hours, locations, maximum number of visitors will be determined by the facility administrator.

The facility Administrator will be notified of any violation or variance to this policy and should a visitor fail to adhere to the protocol, he/she/they may be prohibited from visiting during the pandemic.