



3/10/20

Welcome Nursing Home is working diligently to protect the health and welfare of our residents. In light of the rapid increase and spread of COVID-19 and the high risk for our resident population we are taking conservative efforts to ensure the highest level of safety. This infection can be carried by individuals who are asymptomatic. Following recommended guidance from the Health Department and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), we have eliminated all visitors including outside activity performers and groups. We are assessing each outside scheduled resident physician appointment to limit community contact. Guidance from CMS has mandated us to **Limit** unnecessary visitors from the building. **Visitors will only be permitted to enter the building under certain situations reviewed and approved through administration.** There are very few exemptions to this Restricted Visitation Policy. In order to be considered for an Authorized Visit, you must request the visit through the Administrative team. Any authorized visitor will undergo a screening to verify:

1. They, nor anyone in their household, have no signs or symptoms of respiratory infection such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat.
2. They, nor anyone in their household, in the last 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 or is under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness
3. They, nor anyone in their household, have not traveled Internationally within the last 14 days to a country with sustained community transmission (China, Iran, Italy, South Korea)
4. They, nor anyone in their household, is residing in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring

We have met with our residents this afternoon and are in the process of placing personal phone calls to all resident's primary contacts to notify them of these changes in our Visitation Policy. This is a temporary intervention and we will modify these restrictions as we are directed. However, we do not anticipate lifting Visitation Restrictions any sooner than 2 weeks. Since our residents are at the highest risk for fatalities related the COVID-19 pandemic we are leaning in and taking action to prevent a potential negative outcome in our facility. As the Governor's office said on our call today "life as we know it is going to be disrupted." This is a temporary inconvenience to prevent a negative outcome. We appreciate your understanding and assure you we are taking all precautions to minimize risks for your loved ones. We anticipate additional guidance from the Health Department, CMS and CDC as this situation evolves and we will share modifications to our policy as changes are made. I will plan to send out a weekly update at the very least while we have a restriction on our visitation policy. Thank you for your understanding and support as we do our best to protect our residents. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to reach out at any time 440-775-1491.

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L

