



OUTDOOR VISITATION FAQS

We remain thankful that Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) approved outdoor family visitation at long term care facilities. The approval to allow outdoor visitation did come with restrictions and criteria for Residents, their families, and the facility. Please remember if the facility should have a COVID positive Resident and/or employee, we will have to restrict outdoor visitation. There must be no new COVID cases that originated within the facility within the last 14 days.

These FAQs serve as an education tool to understanding COVID, the restrictions and guidelines. Please read the following very carefully.

What is COVID-19?

Per the CDC, the virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold. There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

What are signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

Please watch and monitor to ensure you have had none of the following symptoms in the last 14 days - any respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and/or any other type of upper respiratory symptoms or GI symptoms such as N/V/diarrhea.

What can I do to stop the spread of COVID-19?

The CDC provides education and guidance on how we can all work together to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19. When in public (grocery store, pharmacy, doctor, etc.), wear a cloth face covering over your mouth. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Practice social distancing allowing 6 ft. in between yourself and others. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Stay home when you get sick, except to get medical care.

Will there be scheduled hours for outdoor visitation?

Yes, the facility will set the hours and the schedule may change. For example, if the facility determines that weather is unsuitable or a Resident cannot be safely moved outdoors due to illness, visitation may be cancelled or unavailable. Preset visitation slots will be available and scheduled by the facility. If a visitor arrives during a time not scheduled with the facility, they will not be allowed to visit. The number of visitation slots will be dependent upon the number of visiting stations the facility can provide. The visitor stations must meet the guidelines for social distancing and protection of weather such as direct sunlight.

What is required to be allowed to visit?

A face mask or covering MUST be worn during the entire visitation. Visitors may wear their own mask, or the facility will provide one cloth mask per visitor. The visitor is responsible for cleaning the mask and bringing it back to each visitation. Visitors are also required to keep physical distancing between themselves and the Resident of at least 6 ft. apart. No hugging or touching will be allowed. If a Resident needs assistance, please engage our facility representative to assist. Visitors will also be required to sanitize their hands before and after each visit.

Can I visit if I have had a COVID positive test in the past?

Yes, you can if you either provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note) that you no longer meet CDC criteria for transmission-based precautions or provide two negative test results, following the positive result, that was completed greater than 24 hours apart.

Will visitors be screened?

Yes, all visitors will be screened prior to visitation. The visitor must pass the screening process to be allowed to visit. Visitors must answer questions related to COVID-19 and will be required to sign the screening form as well as an addendum questionnaire as needed. Temperatures will also be taken upon arrival.

How many visitors can see a Resident?

Only (2) visitors will be allowed per Resident visit. This is to accommodate social distancing in our preset areas.

Is visitation open for all ages?

Visitation is restricted for children ages 12 or under. You will need to contact the facility directly if you feel an exception needs to be made. Any minor, under the age of 16, must be accompanied by an adult.

How long may I visit?

Outdoor visits are restricted to 45 minutes per visit. This will allow time to adequately sanitize visitation stations in between visitors. It also ensures each Resident has an opportunity to have family visits.

Can I bring food?

Yes, you can bring food; however, you cannot share food with the Resident (e.g., you cannot eat from the same bag of chips). Also, if a Resident has dietary restrictions, the food must meet these restrictions. If you are unsure if your loved one has food restrictions contact the facility prior to your visit to learn what is allowed.

Is there any other visitation allowed now?

There is an exception for visitors for compassionate care situations, such as end of life. These exceptions are made on a case by case basis.

How do I stay connected in between outdoor visits?

We encourage phone calls, video chat, window visits, cards and ecards as ways to stay connected to your loved one during this difficult time.

THANK YOU

We thank you, in advance, for understanding, the visitor guidelines and restrictions. It is our hope that these outdoor visits will help the wellbeing of our Residents who have been apart from those they love for far too long. Failure to comply with any of the outdoor visitor guidelines may result in cancellation of any future visits. Please know that every decision we make is with safety in mind for our Residents and employees.