

March 31, 2021

To Our Residents and Family Members,

The Director of Health recently updated/amended the Order for Nursing Home Visitation that permits access to personnel who are necessary for the operations of nursing homes and permit access to visitors in the circumstances set forth below.

Visits must be scheduled with Brethren Care in advance of the visit. Visitors will be provided a time for the visit as well as the length of the visit in advance of the visitation date. Visitors shall be allotted a minimum of 30 minutes.

- Visits must be scheduled with at least 24 hours notice. Visits can be scheduled Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:30pm. Weekend Visits need to be scheduled by Friday at 3:30pm.
- To schedule a visit please call 419-289-1585 ext. 220.

All visitors will be **required to sign in/out** on the Accushield Kiosk in the front lobby. The kiosk is set up with screening questions regarding symptoms of COVID-19 and exposure to COVID-19. It also includes gathering contact information for each visitor.

Visitors are required to wear a surgical or procedural mask during the entire visit. If you do not have a surgical or procedural mask one will be provided by the facility. The face covering must cover the nose and mouth. Residents should also wear a mask, when possible, during the visit.

All visitors shall be able to facilitate social distancing, be able to wear a face covering, and not be a distraction to other residents, visitors, or staff. At this time children under the age of 2 are not able to visit as it is contraindicated for them to wear a facial covering.

No more than two visitors are permitted per resident per visit.

We still encourage residents and visitors to have a contact-free visit. However, if the resident is **fully vaccinated**, they can choose to have close contact with their visitor **while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after**. Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility. Fully vaccinated refers to an individual who is greater than 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or greater than 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per CDC Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.

Hand sanitizer is available to visitors and residents for use before, after and during the visit. Items and surfaces such as wheelchairs, tabletops, or other touched items shall be cleaned and disinfected between visits.

Visitors will be notified about the potential for COVID-19 exposure in the nursing home and shall adhere to the core principals of COVID-19 infection prevention, including effective hand hygiene and use of face coverings.

Visitors will be escorted to and from the designated visitation area by staff of the facility and by using the most direct route.

Visitation will only occur in designated visitation areas that will be assigned when the visit is scheduled.

Nursing homes are encouraged and have the right to test visitors if feasible.

Indoor Visitation Requirements:

In addition to all other visitation requirements, the following shall apply to all indoor visitations:

- Indoor visitation will be allowed except for a few circumstances when visitation shall be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission. Indoor visitation will be limited for:
 - Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is greater than 10% and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated.
 - Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria to discontinue Transmission Based Precautions; or
 - Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

Brethren Care Village Health Care Center will continue to offer compassionate care visitation as the need arises. Compassionate care visitations are still required to comply with the requirements set forth above.

At any time if these rules and regulations are not being followed the visitation will cease and further visitation will be prohibited.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of healthcare and the safety of you and your loved one.

For further information or to read the full Director's Amended order please visit:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/amended-do-permit-access-nursing-homes-wexc-3-19-21.pdf>

Sincerely,

Carrie L Harpster, LNHA

