



## **COVID VISITATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

### **Policy:**

To provide safe visitation for residents and their guests in our licensed areas (Seaside Assisted Living, Starr Memory Care Residence, and Smith Care Center) accordance with current regulations.

### **Purpose**

All residents have the right to private and uncensored visitation with any person of the resident's choice during visiting hours, and overnight visitation outside the facility with family and friends in accordance with facility policies, physician orders, and Title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act regulations, without the resident's losing his or her bed. Facility visiting hours shall be flexible, taking into consideration special circumstances such as, but not limited to, out-of-town visitors and working relatives or friends

### **COVID**

COVID 19 is a highly contagious corona virus. Here are a few facts about the virus:

- COVID 19 is the disease caused by the SARS COV-2 and emerged in December 2019.
- COVID 19 can be severe and has caused millions of deaths around the world as well as long-lasting health problems in some who have survived the illness.
- The coronavirus can spread from person to person. It is diagnosed with a simple test.
- The best way to protect yourself is to get vaccinated and boosted when eligible, follow testing guidelines, wear a mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing.
- Do not be in close contact with someone who is sick.
- These core principles are consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for nursing homes and should be always adhered to. Additionally, visitation should be person-centered, consider the residents' physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and support their quality of life. The risk of transmission can be further reduced using physical barriers (e.g., clear Plexiglass dividers, curtains). Also, nursing homes should enable visits to be conducted with an adequate degree of privacy.
- By following a person-centered approach and adhering to these core principles visitation can occur safely based on the below guidance.

### **Screening**

- Prior to entry into our licensed areas all visitors will be screened for any signs of COVID 19 such as : fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congested or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

- Visitors will be asked if they have been with anyone who has tested positive in the last two weeks.
- Visitors will be asked if you have tested positive in the last two weeks.
- If any of the above is noted a visitor can be prohibited from entry.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may be necessary to don prior to your entrance into our licensed areas. The use of gowns, gloves, masks and face shields may vary depending on the Risk of Transmission in our county. The Risk of Transmission can be found on the CDC Tracker website. Plymouth Harbor requires any individual who is entering the facility and who will have physical contact with any resident to wear PPE pursuant to the most recent CDC guidelines. Persons without physical contact with any resident must wear a face mask.

### **Compassionate Care Giver**

- A resident, client, or patient may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver upon admission. Plymouth Harbor will allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by Plymouth Harbor. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident, client, or patient of a provider, and Plymouth Harbor will not require an essential caregiver to provide such care.

### **Outdoor Visitation**

- General visitation for outdoor visits is strongly encouraged.

### **Indoor Visitation**

- Visitation can be conducted through different means based on Plymouth Harbor's structure and residents' needs, such as in resident rooms, dedicated visitation spaces.
- The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all circumstances unless the resident objects.
- Visits shall be scheduled with consideration of ability of staffing to ensure adequate safe screening and monitoring of face mask and PPE usage and social distancing.
- Staff will monitor visitor adherence to appropriate use of surgical masks, PPE, and social distancing.
- If Sarasota County's COVID-19 community Level of Transmission rate is Substantial or High, then all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, should always wear face coverings or masks and physically distance.
- When Sarasota County is in Low or Moderate transmission, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, particularly if either of them is at increased risk for or are not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.

- Residents, regardless of vaccination status, can choose not to wear face coverings or masks when other residents are not present and have close contact (including touch) with their visitors.
- Residents who are on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or quarantine can still receive visitors. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident's room and the resident should wear a well-fitting facemask (if tolerated). Before visiting residents who are on TBP or quarantine visitors should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident. Visitors should adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. Plymouth Harbor may offer well-fitting facemasks or other appropriate PPE, if available; however, Plymouth Harbor is not required to provide PPE for visitors.
- Visitors shall maintain social distance of at least 6 feet with other residents and staff and limit movement in the facility.
- If a resident's roommate is not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses or immunocompromised (regardless of vaccination status) visits should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, Plymouth Harbor will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention.
- Visitation will continue if the facility has a positive resident or staff case of COVID 19. All visitors are to be notified of the positive case prior to their entry.
- Visitors must immediately inform the Administrator of Strategic Healthcare Initiatives if they develop a fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or test positive for COVID-19 within fourteen (14) days of a visit to the facility.
- Residents and their representatives will receive notice of any changes to the facility visitation policy.
- The Administrator of Strategic Healthcare Initiatives will oversee the documentation and education to be provided in this program as well as the Infection Control Policies of the facility.
- Vaccines are not mandatory for visitors.
- Plymouth Harbor may suspend in-person visitation of a specific visitor if the visitor violates the Plymouth Harbor's policies and procedures.

**THIS IS AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE VISITATION POLICY. SHOULD YOU WANT TO SEE THE ENTIRE POLICY, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE Administrator for Strategic Healthcare Initiatives AT 941-361-7510.**