

May 6, 2021

Dear Residents and Families,

As you are aware, the CDC continues to study the effects of the COVID-19 vaccines in relation to transmission and breakthrough cases of COVID-19. As additional information becomes available, the CDC and CMS are strategically releasing revised guidance related to the health care industry, specifically long-term care settings. Yesterday, CDC and CMS released revised guidance related to additional visitation recommendations, communal dining, and activities and we are very pleased to share this information with you!

For more than a year, residents have been required to dine and participate in activities either in their rooms or strategically socially distanced to prevent any potential spread of COVID-19 in our buildings. Our residents and tenants want to get back to some normalcy and to be able to eat with someone at the same table, so we are very pleased to report that the CDC and CMS guidance is now allowing flexibility with communal dining and activities.

While we continue to adhere to core infection control principals and strategies to keep and mitigate any spread of COVID-19, the following guidelines are adopted from our federal regulatory agencies.

**Visitation:**

Based on previous guidance, visitation is generally allowed for all residents/tenants at all times:

Please call in advance so we can manage the number of visitors. One visit per week is available so that all residents/tenants have an opportunity for visitors. Additional visits upon request may be granted.

- **Two visitors at a time. Children may be one of the two, as long as they can tolerate a mask and socially distance.**
- **Visits will take place in the Conference Room, unless it is a Compassionate Care visit (call facility for requirements). Tenant's visitors may visit in their apartment.**
- **Visitors must wear a mask/face covering and answer screening questions when they arrive. Please refrain from visiting if you are not feeling well.**
- **If you have been fully vaccinated, we would appreciate knowing this information.**
- **During visitation, fully vaccinated residents/tenants and fully vaccinated visitors may now visit without socially distancing or use of face masks.**
- **During visitation, fully vaccinated resident/tenant and unvaccinated visitors will continue to require the use of face mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines. If fully vaccinated residents/tenants chose to have a close contact visit (including touching), this may occur while face masks remain on for both the resident and visitor.**
- **During visitation, unvaccinated residents/tenants and visitors regardless of vaccination status will be required to adhere to social distancing and use of face masks throughout the entirety of the visit.**

### **Communal Dining and Activities:**

- **Fully vaccinated residents/tenants will now be allowed to dine and participate in activities with other fully vaccinated residents/tenants without social distancing or utilization of face masks.**
- **If a resident/tenant/staff in the room is unvaccinated, all residents will be required to utilize face masks (except while eating), and unvaccinated residents/tenants must remain socially distanced from other residents.**
- **Based on these guidelines the procedures adapted are to assure that vaccination status of the residents/tenants remains confidential.**

The CDC continues to provide statistical data that supports vaccination for the mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccinated individuals have a lower risk to contract COVID-19, and if they do the chances of severe illness are far less likely than those who are unvaccinated. In addition, data is revealing that vaccinated individuals are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection, decreasing the chance of spread to other individuals if proper quarantine/isolation procedures are followed. Both situations greatly reduce the chances of a significant outbreak. Our facilities continue to have access to vaccines and those residents/tenants and/or families desiring to reconsider vaccination status are urged to ask questions and/or consent to vaccination. Please contact me for questions you may have regarding vaccination.

Sincerely,

Shelly Hopp, Administrator