

## Updated Visitation Guidance

Revised January 12, 2022

Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak throughout the State of New York, the New York State Department of Health is issuing the below Health Advisory under 10 NYCRR §415.19 to implement the following requirements and testing protocols for all visitors entering a nursing home in New York State during the duration of the Omicron outbreak.

As a result, the facility recommended visitation hours are as follows:

10am-7pm (Monday - Friday)

9am-5pm (Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays)

Please come to the facility with proof of a negative COVID-19 test result (PCR or Rapid Antigen Test). Test results must be within 24 hours of visit. When administering your own rapid test – take it as close to visit time as possible. Bring test result into the facility enclosed in a zip lock bag (or the like)– with name and date. We will discard test after it is presented. Present enclosed test to the receptionist or designated staff in a zip locked bag– we will be keeping track of test results. Receptionist/designee will ask for Name of Visitor/ Name of resident/DOB/date and time of test taken.

### Tests that are acceptable:

- Tests from doctors' office
- Rapid Antigen tests
- Rapid test kits purchased from CVS etc.
- Lab PCR tests
- A Picture or Video of an at home test will not be accepted unless it contains all of the following:

1. The Covid-19 testing device and result
2. The date and time stamp that the test was taken
3. A government issued or student ID



End of Life Visits: please contact the social worker, nursing supervisor or director of nursing and this will be addressed on an individual basis and must be approved.

## **Mask, Personal Protective Equipment, and Physical Distancing Requirements for Visitors:**

All visitors must:

- Wear a well-fitting non-surgical paper mask or a mask of higher quality (i.e., surgical mask, KN95 or N95) at all times during any visitation at the facility. If the visitor wishes, a cloth mask may be placed over the paper mask. The masks must cover both the nose and the mouth; and
- Physically distance from facility personnel and other patients/residents/visitors that are not directly associated with the specific resident(s) being visited by that individual

## **COVID-19 Testing of Visitors:**

Visitors must present nursing homes licensed and regulated by the New York State Department of Health with verification and proof that they have received a negative SARS-CoV-2 test result **one day prior to visitation for antigen tests and two days prior to visitation for NAAT (e.g. PCR) tests. All visitors may use either NAAT testing or antigen testing.** This means, for example, that a test for a Sunday visit should be conducted no earlier than Saturday if it's an antigen test or Friday if it's a PCR test. Any PCR or antigen test used must either have Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. For visitors who visit for multiple days, including a visitor who comes every day, proof of negative testing is required as often as feasible, at a minimum every third day (meaning at a minimum testing is required on day one, day 4, day 7, and so on).

## **Exemptions:**

The following are exempt from the testing requirements of this Advisory:

Compassionate caregiving visitors, within the meaning of Public Health Law §2801-h, who are visiting in anticipation of the end of a resident's life or in the instance of a significant mental, physical, or social decline or crisis of a resident. In any case where such an exception is made, the visitor must wear any additional personal protective equipment (PPE) that facility personnel deem appropriate to the situation.

Please contact the facility directly for any questions or concerns.

Please see the attached link to the REVISED NYS DOH visitation guidance:

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/health-advisory-nursing-home-visitation\\_1-12-22.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/health-advisory-nursing-home-visitation_1-12-22.pdf)