**Indoor Visitation and Activities**

**Purpose**

The Evansville Care Center understands that balancing COVID-19 safety and visitation restrictions with the well-being of residents. Social isolation as a result of COVID-19 visitor restrictions is a significant concern and an issue that requires close cooperation between the Evansville Care Center, visitors, and local and state public health to address it safely and successfully.

The facility Administrator is responsible for identifying when indoor visitations must be suspended, which is subject to change based on a variety of factors.

**MDH long-term care visitation and activities levels**

MDH has provided indoor visitation and activities guidance in adjusting restrictions while maintaining high standards for COVID-19 safety for residents, staff, and visitors.

Visitation will remain without restrictions if:

1. There have been no new facility (residents or staff) COVID-19 cases. Compassionate Care visits, Essential Caregiver visits, and visits required under state and federal disability rights laws will be *allowed at all times* regardless of vaccination status, county rate, or an outbreak.

2. The following visitation restrictions will be based on the county rate:

a. Allowable visits only include compassionate care visits, outdoor, and window visits.

b. No indoor visitation by any visitor or non-essential health care personnel are permitted.

c. Indoor visitation will be limited for residents who are unvaccinated if the facility’s 14-day COVID-19 positivity rate is >10% and <60% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated.

3. Referencing the Visitation and Activity Guidance for Counties with Low or Medium Positivity Rate (≤10%):

a. Compassionate care visits, outdoor, and window visits are all allowed.

b. In addition, the facility may allow in person, non-essential visits when protocols are put in place.

**Visitation During Outbreak:**

1. Outbreak is defined as a new facility-onset case of COVID-19 occurs among residents or staff:

a. If the 1st round of outbreak testing shows no additional COVID-19 infections in other areas/units of the facility, visitation can start again for residents in areas/units with no COVID-19 cases. Visitation on the affected unit/s should be suspended until the facility meets the criteria to stop outbreak testing.

b. If the 1st round of outbreak testing shows one more additional COVID-19 cases in other areas/units of the facility, visitation will be suspended for all residents.

**Procedure**

1. **Testing Plan** 
   1. A written testing plan that addresses ongoing testing and includes a plan for continued testing of symptomatic staff and residents.
   2. The Evansville Care Center will test all residents or staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and follow [MDH guidance for LTC testing](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltctesting.html).

i. When/if a new case of facility-onset COVID-19 is identified among residents or staff, the facility should immediately begin outbreak testing and suspend all visitation, with the exception of Essential Caregiver visits, Compassionate Care visits, and visits required under disability rights laws until at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed.

* 1. The facility will make their testing plan available when requested by MDH or other interested persons.

1. **Mandatory Indoor Visitation** 
   1. No COVID-positive outbreaks including staff and/or residents.
      1. If an outbreak is identified, visitation may resume if there are no additional COVID-19 cases with the first round of outbreak testing.
         1. If more cases are identified during outbreak testing, visitation should be postponed until there are 2 consecutive negative tests within the area of outbreak (facility).
   2. Douglas County case activity level in community has a case rate of ≤10% over a 2-week period.
   3. A staffing plan is in place.
   4. Adequate access to PPE for staff is sufficient
   5. Local hospital capacity is available if needed.

1. **Visitor Screening/Check in Process** 
   1. All visitors must enter the building through main entry door, and immediately check in for their screening prior to each visit.
   2. Frequent hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub or hand washing will be performed by the visitor. This will be provided in the visitation space and in the entry.
   3. All visitors will be screened by staff for temperature and other signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Visitors who do not pass the screening will be prohibited from visiting.
   4. At the time of entry, visitors will review their understanding of the visitor requirements and rules.
   5. Upon entry, visitors will provide name and phone number in case contact tracing is necessary.
   6. Following the screening process, the visitor will be escorted to visitation space.
2. **Visitor Instructions**

a. General considerations

* + 1. Visitors should wear face coverings in public spaces.
    2. All visitors will wear appropriate PPE in accordance with CDC guidelines. Educational materials provided in the entry.
    3. The facility will provide PPE to the visitors.
    4. All visitors should maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet, when possible, within public spaces.
    5. Visitors failing to properly utilize PPE and/or social distancing will not be eligible for future visits.
    6. Gathering in public spaces are not permitted.
    7. Visitation does not need to be scheduled unless there are special accommodations including reserving a visitation space.
    8. Visits should be held outdoors whenever feasible.
  1. Unvaccinated residents
     1. Face coverings should be maintained through the duration of the visit.
     2. No food or drink allowed.
     3. Social distancing should be maintained through the duration of the visit.
     4. No physical touch permitted. If this is not followed, resident will be in quarantine for 14 days.
     5. 3 guests allowed per visitation.
     6. Visits will be conducted in designated spaces.
  2. Vaccinated residents (2 weeks following their second immunization)
     1. May have remove mask when in the designated visiting space.
     2. No limitations to number of visitors.
     3. No social distancing required.
     4. Eating and drinking is permitted.

1. **Triggers for Suspending Indoor Visitation**
   1. Visitors will be prohibited if a resident they are visiting is COVID-19 positive or symptomatic – exceptions may be made for compassionate care visits
   2. Visiting rights may be restricted or revoked for individuals if communicated safety measures are not followed by the resident or visitor.
   3. Visiting rights will be revoked for visitors if they are COVID-19 positive or are exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
   4. County positivity rates exceed 10%.
   5. The facility experiences a case of COVID from a resident or a staff member.
   6. Staffing capacities do not allow.
   7. PPE supplies are low or absent.
2. **Sanitation of Visiting Space Between Visitors**
   1. The visitation space will be disinfected daily.
3. **Out of Facility** 
   1. Residents who are currently in isolation or quarantine for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should not leave their long-term care settings.
   2. If the resident leaves the building to gather with others, they should watch for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after they return to the LTC setting.
   3. Visitors should be notified about the potential for COVID-19 exposure in the facility (signage indicating current outbreak status).
4. **Concerns with Visitation Modification Policy can be directed to:**

a. Brandon Borgstrom, Administrator

b. Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care at 651-431-2555 or 1-800-657-3591 to request advocacy services.