



COVID-19 UPDATES

We are excited and happy that the Minnesota Department of Health has given us permission to start outdoor visits. We know you are eager to safely reunite with your loved one. Our communities are putting procedures and precautions in place that will help to ensure outdoor visits do not expose residents to unnecessary risks.

Here are the guidelines from MDH that we must fulfill before opening for outdoor visits:

Community criteria for outdoor visits:

- Establish a schedule for visitation hours
- Ensuring adequate staffing as staff must be present to allow for help with outdoor transition of residents, and to assist with wiping down any visitation areas as necessary.
- Creating protocols for staff to maintain visual observation but provide as much distance as necessary to allow for privacy of the visit conversation.
- Creating a system to ensure visitors are screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at a screening location designated outside the building.
- Creating a system to ensure residents and visitors wear a mask or other face covering at all times, as tolerated.
- Designating outdoor visitation spaces and ensuring they are accessible without visitors having to walk through the facility.
- Ensuring outdoor visitation spaces support social distancing of at least 6 feet between the visitor and resident.
- Ensuring communities have adequate alcohol-based provide hand rub to persons visiting residents and provide signage or verbal reminders of correct use.
- Facilities must establish additional guidelines as needed to ensure the safety of visitations and their facility operations. These guidelines must be reasonable and must take into account the individual needs of residents.

Resident criteria for outdoor visits:

- Current COVID-19 positive residents, residents with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period are not eligible for outside visits.

- Residents who have had COVID-19 must no longer require transmission-based precautions as outlined by the CDC and MDH guidelines.
- Residents must wear a mask, or other face covering, as tolerated.

Visitor criteria for outdoor visits:

- We kindly request that you schedule your visits in advance.
- Visitors must wear a mask, or other face covering, during the entire visit unless medically contraindicated.
- We ask that you not bring food or beverages for the visits. Masks need to be worn while you're together and eating or drinking requires the removal of face protection. We understand the weather can be hot during this season and we will offer hydration to our residents before and after their visits.
- Visitors must use alcohol-based hand rub upon entering and exiting the visitation area.
- Visitors must be actively screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and must attest to COVID19 status if known. This should be done at a designated location outside the building.
- Visitors should not walk through the facility to get to the outdoor visitation area.
- Visitors must sign in and provide contact information.
- Due to the risk of exposure, holding hands, hugging, kissing, or other physical contact is not allowed during family visits.
- Visitors under age 12 years must be in the control of adults who bring them and must also comply with social distancing requirements.
- Pets must be under the control of the visitor bringing them in.
- All visitors must maintain 6 feet social distance.
- Visitors must stay in designated visitation locations.

Weather:

Visits should occur only on days when there are no weather warnings that would put either the visitor or resident at risk.

Once a community has its protocols established, they will be communicating with the designated representatives to let you know next steps for scheduling your outdoor visit. If you have any questions, you can reach out to your community's Executive Director.