Meridian at Westwood

Visitation Policy

It is the responsibility of the Executive Director (ED)/designee to ensure all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with the resident's preferences, and each resident and/or their Legally Authorized Person(s) has the right to consent, withdraw consent or decline visitors.

Visitation privileges shall not be restricted, limited or otherwise denied on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

Residents have the right to receive any number of visitors they permit, including (but not limited to) a spouse (including a same-sex spouse), a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), family member or friend. Visitors cannot be compelled to provide proof of vaccination or immunization status.

Residents have the right to receive visitors of their choosing when they choose to. The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:

- End-of-life situations
- A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the community is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support
- The resident is making one or more major medical decisions
- The resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died
- The resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver
- The resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking

Consensual physical contact between a resident and a visitor is permissible.

Residents may designate a family member, friend, guardian or other individual (including resident representative) as an essential caregiver. Residents may visit with any person(s) of his or her choice during visitation hours. Visitation hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. as per FS 429.28 (1)(d). Any visitation outside of those hours will be considered upon request to the Executive Director. During these hours, in-person visitation by the essential caregiver is allowed for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider.

Minor visitors under 12 years of age shall be accompanied and supervised by an adult other than the resident at all times.

The community will screen for infectious disease including COVID-19 symptoms, infection or exposure before entry. This screening will include temperature checks, completion of attestation forms and/or answering a series of questions. Any visitors who do not pass this screening will be offered an opportunity to visit the resident virtually where available. All visitors must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), which at a minimum is a face mask (additional PPE may be required as clinically indicated). All visitors and children over age 2 will be provided a face mask for their use. Visitor PPE requirements will be consistent with community staff members' PPE requirements, except for fit testing of N95 masks. Our communities will supply tissues, waste receptacles, alcohol-based hand sanitizer and face masks at all entry points.

The community will post CDC recommendations on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, cough etiquette, and signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and Influenza. In addition, the community will arrange COVID-19 vaccination clinics and Influenza and Pneumococcal vaccines as needed.

Standard precautions are infection control methods which require caregivers to assume that all blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions (except sweat), no intact skin, and mucous membranes may contain transmissible infectious agents. Standard precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of pathogens from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection. Thus, in addition to blood and blood contaminated body fluids, standard precautions apply to feces, nasal secretions, urine, vomitus, sputum, and saliva (all moist body substances except sweat).

Standard precautions include the appropriate methods for:

• Hand hygiene.

• Personal protective equipment.

• Injection safety.

• Environmental cleaning.

• Use of disposable and reusable medical equipment.

• Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.

All visitors to our communities are responsible for:

- Being respectful and considerate of the rights and needs of other residents and staff members
- Being sensitive to noise level, number of visitors and the communities' smoke-free environment
- Following this policy and other communities' policies and procedures that the visitor is made aware of

A visitor's in-person visitation privileges may be suspended if they violate this policy or the communities' policies and procedures that the visitor is made aware of.

The Resident Services Director will act as the Infection Preventionist and will be responsible for staff adherence to the policy and to insure the implementation and use of standard precautions at the community level.