



**IN-PERSON VISITATION POLICY**  
**THE BLAKE AT ST. JOHNS (HEREINAFTER THE “COMMUNITY”)**

- Exhibits:     A. Residential Essential Caregiver Designation Form  
                  B. Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form

Adoption Date: September 13, 2024

**Purpose**

This policy and the attendant procedures are intended to facilitate visitation at the Community, in compliance with Florida law. A resident may have in-person visitors in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined below and may additionally designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or another individual as an Essential Caregiver.

**Policy**

The following are the procedures to be followed by all visitors. These procedures will be administered equally to all residents, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and transgender status) age, national origin, disability, or veteran status. The residents shall be entitled to unrestricted private communication, including receiving and sending unopened correspondence, access to a telephone, and visiting with any person of his or her choice.

**In-Person Visitation**

In-person visitation is permitted in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:

1. End-of-life situations;
2. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider’s care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support;
3. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions;
4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died;
5. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver; and



6. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.

### **Hours of Visitation**

Residents will be allowed visitors with any person of their choice daily anytime between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., at a minimum. There is no limitation on the length of the visit during these hours.

Upon request, extended visitation is available. The facility shall make provisions to extend visiting hours for caregivers and out-of-town guests, and in other similar situations.

### **Person in Charge of Staff Adherence**

The Community Executive Director is responsible for ensuring the staff's adherence to the In-Person Visitation Policy. The Executive Director will also appoint a Wellness Director and Assistant Wellness Director who will comprise the "Wellness Team" as key team members to assist in supporting infection prevention and control training for residents and visitors.

### **Procedure**

#### **I. Visitors**

1. The Community Executive Director will provide the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) with a copy of the Community's In-Person Visitation Policy, with the initial licensure application, renewal application, and/or change of ownership application. The Community will make its policies and procedures available to AHCA for review at any time, upon request.
2. Within 24-hours of establishing the In-Person Visitation Policy, the Community shall post a copy of this policy on the Community's website home page.
3. The number of visitors allowed in the Community at any given time may be limited based on the ability of the staff to safely screen and monitor and the space to accommodate the visitors.
4. The Community Executive Director or designee will:
  - a. Identify locations for visitations to occur and plan for residents who may have shared space and Communities with minimal common space to identify maximum time and availability.
  - b. Provide outdoor visitation spaces that are protected from the weather elements, such as porches, courtyards, patios, or other covered areas that are protected from



heat, and sun with cooling devices, if needed.

- c. Community will create indoor visitation spaces for residents in a room that is not accessible by other residents or in a resident's private room if the resident is bedbound and for health concerns and cannot leave his or her room.

## **II. Additional Procedures for Essential Caregiver Visitors**

1. All residents and/or POA/Guardian, if appropriate, will be asked if they want to identify an Essential Caregiver. All new residents will be asked if they would like to identify an Essential Caregiver upon move-in. The resident will identify the Essential Caregiver on a Residential Essential Caregiver Designation Form.
2. All residents will be allowed to update as requested the name of the Essential Caregiver of record within 2 business days of request.
3. No more than one Essential Caregiver visitor may be designated per resident.
4. Community changes to the Essential Caregiver visitation policies must be promptly communicated to the residents and Essential Caregivers.
5. Essential Caregiver visitation may take place in the resident's room or in a designated area determined by the Community Executive Director.
6. The Essential Caregiver is not required and will not be required to provide necessary care to the resident.

## **III. Visitor Education, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Other Infection Protocols**

1. Visitor education will take place when the resident is admitted to the Community and as needed. Visitor education will include training on infection prevention and control including the use of PPE, use of masks, and hand sanitation.
2. The policy does **NOT** prohibit in-person visits, if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or is showing symptoms of a communicable disease. Visits in these circumstances will require a higher level of PPE following current guidelines of the CDC. The PPE required will not be more stringent than that required for staff.
3. The Community will provide for "Community-provided" testing if, and only if, such is



based on the most recent CDC and FDA guidance. The cost of the testing cannot be passed on to the visitor.

4. Visitors must wear PPE consistent with the most recent CDC guidance for healthcare workers when necessary. At the Community, the visitors shall wear the same PPE that the staff wear to provide care and services to the residents as may be necessary.
5. Consensual physical contact will be allowed between resident and a visitor.
6. The Community may require a visitor to agree in writing to follow the Community's policies and procedures.
7. A visitor must immediately inform the Community if they develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24 hours of their last visit to the Community.

#### **IV. Visitor Screening**

1. The Community will maintain a visitors log for signing in and out of the Community using the Accushield kiosk system. The concierge will require visitors to sign in and out using the kiosk system.
2. Visitors will be screened pursuant to the current CDC guidelines. Similar to the requirements for staff members entering the building, if the visitor fails the screening, they **CANNOT** be allowed entry. This is not applicable to Essential Caregivers.
3. Visitors will not be compelled to provide proof of vaccination or immunization status.
4. The Wellness Director will ensure that the required consents and training and policy acknowledgements are in place.
5. The Wellness Team will ensure that the visitor has appropriate PPE, if applicable.
6. The Wellness Team will monitor the visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
7. If the visitor fails to follow the Community's infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, the Executive Director shall restrict or revoke visitation until compliance can be assured.



8. In the event an Essential Caregiver's visitor status is revoked due to the individual's failure to follow the Community's policies and procedures, the resident may select a different Essential Caregiver visitor in compliance with this In-Person Visitation Policy.

Essential Caregiver Acknowledgment  
Florida

I, \_\_\_\_\_ accept the designation as an essential caregiver for \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that:

- My visits as an essential caregiver are subject to the community’s infection control and education policies and procedures. I acknowledge receiving the policy and procedures and agree to abide by them.
- My visits as an essential caregiver may be scheduled and may be no less than two hours long per day between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Extended visitation is available upon request.
- Essential caregiver visits cannot occur if the resident personally objects/declines your visit no matter the circumstances pursuant to section 408.823(2)(c), Florida Statutes, which states:  
“The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects.
  1. End of life situations.
  2. A resident was living with family before moving into the community is struggling with the change in the environment and lack of in-person family support.
  3. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
  4. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who has recently died.
  5. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
  6. A resident who previously would talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.”
- When visiting as an essential caregiver, I will utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) as determined by the community policies and procedures related to current facility status and current medical condition of the resident. The PPE will be the same as is required to be worn by the Community staff if it is necessary.
- I acknowledge having received training on infection prevention and control, use of PPE, use of masks, and hand sanitizer. I am satisfied with the training provided and do not have any questions regarding any of the topics.
- I acknowledge my obligations and agree to immediately notify the community leaders if I develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24 hours of my last visit to the Community.
- Visits by essential caregivers may be restricted or revoked for failure to follow infection prevention and control procedures of the community.

---

Designated Essential Caregiver Signature

---

Date

---

Designated Essential Caregiver Printed Name

---

Facility Representative Signature

---

Date

Essential Caregivers Acknowledgement Form A.33 5/4/22,  
Rev. 9/10/24

Essential Caregiver Designation

I, \_\_\_\_\_ designate \_\_\_\_\_ as an essential caregiver for \_\_\_\_\_. In making this designation, I consent and understand that:

- Visits by essential caregivers are subject to the Community’s policies and procedures and the ability to safely screen and monitor visitors.
- All essential caregiver visitors may be scheduled and will be set for a minimum of 2 hours daily between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Extended visitation is available upon request.
- Limited to one visitor per resident at a time and are limited to designated areas only. (Please speak with the Executive Director regarding possible expectations for end-of - life situations).
- A resident may object to a visit at any time, even under the following circumstances:
  1. End-of-Life situations
  2. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the community care is struggling with the change in the environment and lack of in- person family support.
  3. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
  4. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend, or family member who recently died.
  5. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat, or drink which was provided by a family member or caregiver.
  6. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
- Essential caregivers will need to follow the community’s infection control and education policies and procedures and agree to such. At no time will such policies be more stringent than those for staff and at no time require submission of proof of vaccination or immunization.
- Essential caregivers must sign an acknowledgement of completion of the required training and adherence to infection prevention and control policies.
- Visits by the specific essential caregiver may be suspended for failure to follow infection prevention and control requirements of or other related rules of the community. At that time, the resident or resident’s representative can designate a new essential caregiver.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Resident or Legal Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Resident or Legal Representative Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Facility Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date