

**Department:** All Departments  
**Policy Initiated:** June 2020

**Subject:** Visitation during the Covid Pandemic  
**Reviewed / Revised:** April 2021

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“Policies and Procedures are **GUIDELINES**. They are intended to communicate information that generally applies to facility operations. However, these guidelines may not always be applicable to individual circumstance. Current rules, regulations and laws take precedence over guidelines. Managers, professionals and staff may complete their respective duties in an alternative manner, due to rapid pace of progress and/or presenting circumstance.”

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**Policy:**

Brookhaven Healthcare Center realizes that the lack of in-person engagement with family and friends significantly diminishes the individuals’ quality of life and affects their emotional wellness as well as amplifies the potential for physical health risks. Essential Care Visits will be arranged based on necessity and the region’s positivity rates / if resident outbreak testing is being conducted. Indoor Visitation will not occur during outbreak testing. Outdoor Visitation, Compassionate Care Visits & End-of Life Visits can be arranged on a need-to-need basis during any phase.

**Procedure:**

The following guidelines will be put into place for visitation. Strict adherence to the guidelines is to be followed and enforced as it is impossible to know where visitors may have been or the people they have been in contact with.

- a) Visitation will be scheduled through the activities department by appointment only. All visitation will accommodate social distancing and infection control standards, residents that have been fully vaccinated may hug their loved ones. Outdoor visits will take place in the back patio area under observation of facility employee. Compassionate Care, End of Life, Indoor Visitation or Essential Care Giver Visits will be held in a designated area that can be easily cleaned after each visit or in the resident’s room if it is a hardship for the resident to be moved or the roommate to be removed from the room if unvaccinated until end of visitation and cleaning is completed. All visitors must be over age 2 and be able to properly wear a facemask.
- b) A resident who is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19; or quarantined for an exposure to a COVID-19 case cannot be visited except for an end-of-life situation. A resident who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 may be visited only after they have met the criteria for discontinuation of isolation as defined in guidance from NJDOH and CDC. All Essential Care Giver visitors, Compassionate Care visitors, End of Life visitors and Indoor Visitors are encouraged to test with POC / rapid antigen testing before entering the facility for visitation.
- c) The facility will honor each resident’s right to have and choose visitors and to make preferences. The facility will consult with the residents to determine who the resident would wish to visit with in person. These consultations will also serve as communication with the resident to explain how visitation will work and what the resident can expect.
- d) Administration / Activities will provide clear communication of the visitation policy to the residents, resident’s visitors, staff, and others, as needed in writing, via updates posted on the facility website. Visitors are not permitted to enter non-designated areas of the facility, including restrooms, which will not be available to visitors at this time. Visitors will be provided instruction on hand hygiene.

**Brookhaven Healthcare Center**  
East Orange, NJ, 07018

Policy and Procedure Manual

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- e) The facility will ensure that for outdoor visitation the patio area used for outdoor visitation accommodates social distancing and infection control standards. Visitors will be provided with the visitation guidelines upon check in.
- f) The facility will provide a visiting area with accommodations offered for those with mobility needs and designated seating for visitors. The facility will also provide reasonable accommodations for any resident with a disability, such as hearing, vision, or cognitive impairments, and assist any resident with transport using their adaptive equipment. All areas in which visitation occurs will be cleaned by housekeeping / designated staff at the end of the visit.
- g) Prior to transporting a resident to the designated visitation space, the facility will screen the visitor for infectious communicable diseases, including COVID-19 symptoms. Any visitors with symptoms of COVID-19 infection (subjective or objective fever equal to or greater than 100.0 F, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea) will not be permitted to visit with a resident.
- h) Transport of a resident to and from the designated visitation space will be safe and orderly. The resident will not be transported through any space designated as COVID-19 care space or space where residents suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 are present.
- i) A facility staff member familiar with the required protocols will oversee scheduled visitation.
- j) Each resident is limited to no more than two visitors at a time. Visitor(s) must remain at least 6 feet from the resident and attending staff member(s) at all times during the visit unless the resident is fully vaccinated. Prior to visit, visitor(s) should wait in an outdoor space that ensures social distancing of at least six feet from other visitors.
- k) Staff must wear a surgical facemask; residents must wear a face covering and visitors must wear a face covering or mask for the duration of the visit. Visitors must provide their own facemask and facemask must be properly in place before entering the facility. Visits with a resident will be scheduled in advance. Outdoor visitation is dependent on permissible weather conditions, availability of outdoor space, and sufficient staffing at the facility to meet resident care needs, as well as the health and well-being of the resident. Visits may be cancelled because of inclement or unsafe weather conditions (e.g. high humidity/heat, poor air quality) or if resident is ill.

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l) Outdoor Visits will be permitted on the patio with the length of any visit limited to 15 minutes, 7 days a week, during the hours of 11:00am-12:00pm, and 2:00pm-3:00pm. The facility will attempt to accommodate as many visitors as possible with a maximum of one visit per week in order to accommodate others at the facility.

m) Food is not permitted during visitation. Visitors may bring items for the resident but must leave the package at the front reception desk or as directed by the facility. Visitors may bring their own water which cannot be shared with the resident. The facility shall provide appropriate hydration for the resident during the visit. There will be no smoking allowed during outdoor visitation.

n) At the conclusion of the visit, the residents should be transported back to their rooms by a facility staff member if unable to independently transfer themselves. Areas of Visitation will then be cleaned by housekeeping or designated staff.

o) An informed consent must be received from both the visitor and the resident in writing that they are aware of the possible dangers of exposure to COVID-19 for both the resident and the visitor and that they will follow the rules set by the facility in regard to visitation. The facility must receive a signed statement from each visitor and resident (if the resident is unable to consent then the consent needs to be signed by the authorized representative) with a copy provided to the visitor and resident, that they are aware of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 during the visit, that they will strictly comply with the facility policies during visitation, and that the visitor will notify the facility if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 within fourteen days of the visit.

p) Any visitor not found to be compliant with the conditions of visitation (ie: social distancing, wearing mask at all times, proper infection control protocols) may be limited from further visitation being scheduled. Activities will educate families and residents as needed to ensure compliance in all visits arranged at the facility.



4/19/21

## ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS / FAMILIES:

Please Note: Strict adherence to the guidelines is to be followed:

- Preschedule all visits – Visits must be scheduled through Activities, visits are to be limited to two visitors per resident at a time; these visits are to be limited to 15 minutes, 7 days a week, during the hours of 11:00am-12:00pm, and 2:00pm-3:00pm. All Visitors must be over age 2 and be able to properly wear a facemask.
- Indoor Visitation (including end of life, compassionate care & essential caregiver) must be scheduled through Activities or Nursing and are to be limited to two persons per visit. Visits are to take place in an area designated by Activities and visitors are not to enter other areas of the facility. End of Life/Compassionate Care/Essential Caregiver Visitation will be limited to a maximum of 2 hours. Standard indoor visitation is limited to 15 minutes. We encourage POC / Rapid testing prior to visitation in the facility.
- Visitors agree to pre-visit screening (including temperature being taken) and an informed consent must be signed by both the visitor and the resident in writing that they are aware of the possible dangers of exposure to COVID-19. Visitor will be provided instruction on hand hygiene.
- Visitor and resident agree to wear face coverings & to have no physical contact unless resident is fully vaccinated. Adherence to the CDC guidelines for 6-foot social distancing is mandatory. All outdoor visits will take place on the back patio under observation of facility employee.
- Visitor and resident understand that their visit may be cancelled or rescheduled on short notice due to unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather or resident feeling ill.
- Food or gifts during visit will not be allowed to be given to a resident during the visit- Visitors may bring items for the resident but must leave the package at the front reception desk or as directed by the facility. No Smoking during visits.
- Visits are contingent on compliance with all safety protocols.
- Visitors have no access to other areas within the facility (including bathrooms). Please prepare accordingly.

Thank You, Brookhaven Administration



**VISITATION CONSENT FORM**

COVID -19

THIS WRITTEN DOCUMENT IS TO SERVE AS A CONSENT FORM FOR RESIDENT VISITATION TO BROOKHAVEN HEALTHCARE CENTER PURSUANT TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WE ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE INFORMED CONSENT FROM ANY VISITOR AND FROM THE RESIDENT THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE DANGERS OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH BY BROOKHAVEN FOR VISITATION.

(SHOULD THE RESIDENT BE UNABLE TO CONSENT, THEN THE SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE OBTAINED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 DURING THE VISIT)

FURTHERMORE, THE VISITOR(S) AGREES TO NOTIFY THE FACILITY IF THEY TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR EXHIBIT THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE SCHEDULED VISIT.

FURTHERMORE, THE VISITOR(S) AGREES THAT THAT FUTURE VISITATION IS DEPENDENT ON FOLLOWING THE RULES OF SOCIAL DISTANCING, PPE AND INFECTION CONTROL.

**CONSENT SIGNATURES:**

**VISITOR:**

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESIDENT:**

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (IF RESIDENT UNABLE TO SIGN):**

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_