

INTERIM RUTLAND NURSING HOME VISITATION POLICY/GUIDELINES, EFFECTIVE JULY 15, 2020

Policy:

It is the policy of Rutland Nursing Home (the “Facility”) to comply with all state and federal requirements, including Executive Orders and guidance, state reporting requirements including COVID-19 focus surveys, HERDS and staff testing surveys, and federally required submission of COVID-19 data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). In particular, the Facility fully complies with all requirements of the Department of Health Advisories regarding Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation,¹ Pediatric Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation² and Compassionate Care Visitation.

Our resident care philosophy recognizes the many benefits of engaging families and friends in the healing process. However, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been taking extra measures to protect our residents, patients, visitors, and staff, including restrictions on routine visiting.

At the current time, in accordance with New York State guidelines, the Facility has not yet resumed limited visitations for its residents. The Facility also continues to ensure that resident and family communication is ongoing and supported by virtual visits whenever possible.

To ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors, the Facility has implemented many Procedures to ensure compliance, which are outlined below. In addition, the Facility has developed guidelines for visitors, pediatric visitors and compassionate care situations.

Procedures:

In order to maintain compliance with the Department of Health Advisories regarding limited visitation, the Facility has taken the following actions:

- The Facility has implemented protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staffing teams to deal with COVID-positive residents and non-positive residents.
- The Facility is completing and will be submitting the NY Forward Safety Plan, which includes a description of the outdoor and indoor spaces to be used for visitation and

¹ The DOH Health Advisory for Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation is available here:
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/health-advisory_nursing-home-visitation_final-7.pdf

² The DOH Health Advisory for Pediatric Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation is available here:
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/health-advisory_pediatric-skilled-nursing-facility-visitation_final-v6.pdf

the number of visitors and residents that can be safely socially distanced within the space.

- The Facility has adequate staffing as evidenced by the individual staffing plan and as reported to the NHSN.
- The Facility has **not yet** had an absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or residents for a period of no less than twenty-eight (28) days.
- The Facility has access to adequate testing and has a testing plan in place that, at a minimum, ensures that i) all consenting nursing home residents have received a single baseline COVID-19 test; ii) there is capability to test or arrange for testing of all residents upon identification of any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19; and (iii) there is capacity to re-test staff and residents, if a staff member tests positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- The Facility has an executed and operationalized arrangement with laboratories to process SARS-CoV-2 virus tests.
- The Facility adheres to written screening protocols for all staff during each shift, each resident daily, and all persons entering the Facility or grounds of the Facility, including visitors.
- The Facility will post the formal visitation plan on our public website; provide visitors with clear guidelines for visiting via email or social media and will announce if and when visitation is paused due to an increase in the number of residents and/or staff with a confirmed positive COVID-19 diagnosis.
- The Facility has an interdisciplinary team to review the Facility's visitation program compliance with the DOH Health Advisory for Nursing Home Visitation. If the Facility is out of compliance, it will halt visitation and inform the Department of Health.
- The Facility has designated appropriate space both outdoors and indoors as follows:
 - Outdoor space located at Serota Park which will accommodate 20 residents and 40 visitors appropriately socially distanced within the space.
 - Indoor space located at the former Adult Day Health Care Center space which will accommodate 3 residents and 6 visitors appropriately socially distanced within the space.
- The Facility has adequate PPE available.
 - An adequate supply of masks will be on hand for residents and made available to visitors who lack an acceptable face covering;
 - Alcohol-based hand rub, consisting of at least 60 percent (60%) alcohol, will be on hand to residents and visitors; The Facility ensures those individuals are able to demonstrate appropriate use.
- Adequate staff is available to help with the transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- Signage regarding facemask utilization and hand hygiene is posted and floor markings to cue social distancing delineations will be applied.
- The Facility has established a screening process for all visitors to detect signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access. Screening includes both temperature checks and asking questions including, but not limited to whether the individual recently engaged in international travel or travel to other states designated under the

- commissioner's travel advisory. Visitation will be refused if the individual(s) exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or does not pass the screening questions.
- The Facility will maintain the screening questions onsite and will make them available to the Department of Health, upon request.
 - The Facility will maintain documentation of screening onsite in an electronic format and will make it available to the Department of Health, upon request, for purposes of inspection and potential contact tracing.
 - Screening documentation will include the following for each visitor:
 - First and last name of the visitor;
 - Physical (street) address of the visitor;
 - Daytime and evening telephone number;
 - Date and time of visit;
 - Email address, if available; and
 - A notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.
 - The Facility will provide a fact sheet to all visitors during the screening process outlining the Facility's Guidelines for Visitors.

General Guidelines for Visitors

- Visitors may include family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations.
- Visiting hours are restricted to: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and 6:00 – 8:00 pm, and Saturday from 9:00 - 11:00 am, 2:00 – 4:00 pm and 6:00 – 8:00 pm.
- All visits must be scheduled in advance by calling 718-604-5345.
- Only two visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time.
- Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
- No more than 10 percent (10%) of the residents are permitted to have visitors at any one time.
- 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 visits.
- Visits will be limited to outdoor areas, weather permitting. Designated outdoor areas include Serota Park.
- The Facility will permit indoor visits only when the weather does not allow for outdoor visitation, including rain and 90+ degree Fahrenheit heat conditions. Such indoor visits will take place in the former Adult Day Health Care Center space, which is a well-ventilated space. No more than 10 individuals may occupy this space at one time. This may include residents visiting each other.
- Visits may not take place in resident rooms or care areas. An exception is permitted for parents and immediate family members visiting a pediatric resident (see section on Pediatric Visitation below for more information).
- All visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access.

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- Screening will include temperature checks and appropriate questioning to obtain demographic information (e.g., name/address/phone/email), assessment of any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and questions regarding international travel or travel to other states to assess potential exposure to COVID-19
- Visitation will be refused if the individual(s) exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or does not pass the screening questions.
- During the visit, the Facility will provide alcohol-based hand rub to residents and visitors, who must be able to demonstrate appropriate use.
- Visitors must maintain social distancing, except when assisting with wheelchair mobility. Residents may also be assisted to go outdoors with staff supervision. The appropriate infection control and safety and social distancing requirements must be maintained.
- Both visitors and residents (if medically tolerated) must wear a facemask or face covering which covers both the nose and mouth during visitation.
- Visitors must wear a facemask or covering at all times when on the Facility's premises.
- If any visitor fails to adhere to the protocol, he/she/they will be prohibited from visiting for the duration of the COVID-19 state declared public health emergency.
- Visitors must monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of respiratory infection for at least 14 days after exiting the Facility. If symptoms occur, visitors should self-isolate at home, contact their healthcare provider, and immediately notify the Facility of the date they were in the Facility, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations within the Facility where they visited. The Facility will immediately screen the individuals of reported contact, and take all necessary actions based on any findings.

Pediatric Visitation Guidelines:

- **All of the above General Guidelines for Visitors are applicable to pediatric visitation except the following:**
- Visitation is limited to parental/legal guardians of the pediatric resident, their immediate family and specialty service providers.³
- While outdoor visitation is encouraged, visits may occur indoors in resident's rooms or care areas.
- Visitors must maintain social distancing to the extent possible, with the exception of a parent, guardian, immediate family or specialty service provider having close contact with their child.

³ Specialty service providers are not included for purposes of maintaining visitors in numbers not to exceed 10 percent of the resident census.

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

Compassionate Care Visitation Guidelines:

The term “compassionate care situations” does not exclusively refer to end-of-life cases. For example:

For a resident who was living with their family before recently being admitted to a nursing home, the change in their environment and sudden lack of family can be a traumatic experience. Allowing a visit from a family member in this situation would be consistent with the intent of the term “compassionate care situation.”

Similarly, allowing someone to visit a resident whose friend or family member recently passed away would also be consistent with the intent of these situations.

Although Rutland Nursing Home acknowledges that “compassionate care situations” may extend past end-of-life situations, we still believe these visits should not be routine, and they will only be allowed on a limited basis.

Each situation will be reviewed on a case by case basis by Rutland Administration to determine whether it meets the intent of a “compassionate care situation.” All decisions will be made in adherence to NYS Department of Health, CMS and CDC Guidelines, as may be applicable.