

Christian Health Care Center

Outdoor Visitation Guidelines for Long-Term Care Setting Safe Start Plan

Date Implemented:	08-25-2020	Date Reviewed/ Revised:		Reviewed/ Revised By:	Heather Lewis, DNS
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Policy:

CHCC along with Washington State Department of Health recognizes the serious effects isolation can have on the health and wellbeing of residents in LTC facilities. The risk of COVID-19 transmission in LTC facilities and the need for family, partner or close friend interaction can be balanced under certain conditions. This policy will address the recommendations of DOH that CHCC will implement to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission when allowing visits according to the Washington State Phased Reopening Recommendations and Requirements for long-term care facilities.

Policy Explanation and Compliance Guidelines:

1. CHCC has established a schedule for visitation hours: Monday-Friday from 10:00AM-11:30AM and 2:00PM-4:30PM. (Special hours, outside of the schedule, may be accommodated at facility discretion). Visits will be limited to 30 minutes (10 minutes for visitor screening/review and signing of visitation criteria and 20 minutes for visit). Visits will be limited to one visit a week per resident to allow all residents an opportunity for outdoor visitation. Additional visits may be added if available. Visits must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. Scheduling of visits will be done through Therapeutic Recreation (T-Rec) department.
2. CHCC to ensure adequate staff are present to assist with outdoor transition of residents, and to assist with screening of visitors and disinfection of any visitation areas as necessary. Staff person(s) will be scheduled for tasks related to visitations by T-Rec Director/Designee (10:00AM-11:30AM) and by Training and Development Coordinator (2:00PM-4:30PM). All other staff must be ready to help with transport to and from visitation location.
3. CHCC to ensure staff maintain visual observation of visitation but provide as much distance as necessary to allow privacy for the resident and the visitor(s).
4. CHCC to ensure visitors are screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at a screening location designated outside the building. Facility may use the Visitor Log provided by DOH or another similar log to track visitor screening. Visitor Logs must be kept for 30 days.
5. CHCC to ensure residents and visitors wear a mask or other face covering at all times unless exempted due to a medical or mental health condition or disability or to facilitate communication with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.
6. CHCC to select outdoor visitation space(s) that is accessible without having visitors walk through the facility. This designated space will be the front entry way outside main entrance. Designated area will be set up with spacing markers on the ground to indicate 6 feet social distance for resident and visitors.

7. CHCC will provide alcohol-based hand rub to visitors and provide instruction (e.g., signage, verbal reminders, etc.) on correct use. Cart will be set up to include screening supplies (i.e. thermometer, probe covers, gloves), alcohol-based hand rub, Visitor Log, cloth masks and signage.
8. CHCC may establish additional guidelines as needed to ensure the safety of visitations and facility operations. These guidelines will be reasonable and take into account the individual needs of residents.

Resident Criteria

1. Residents in isolation for COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19, who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or are in a 14-day quarantine period (this includes new admissions and readmissions) are not eligible for outside visits.
2. Residents who had COVID-19 and are no longer considered infectious according to the [CDC's Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings](#) are eligible for outside visits.
3. Residents must wear a mask, or other face covering, during all visits, as tolerated.

Visitor Criteria

1. Visitors must wear a mask or other face covering, during the entire visit unless medically contraindicated or to facilitate communication with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing. In the event a visitor does not have a facemask, the facility will provide a cloth facemask to be utilized during the visit. The cloth facemask will then be laundered according to policy.
2. Visitors must use alcohol-based hand rub upon entering and exiting the visitation area.
3. CHCC will screen visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Visitors must attest to COVID-19 status if known. Visitors will be required to review and sign an agreement to adhere to the visitation criteria. Facility may use Visitor Log from DOH or another similar log to track visitor screening.
4. Screening must be done at a designated location outside of the building.
5. Visitors must not walk through the facility to get to the outdoor visitation area.
6. Visitors must sign in at the screening station and provide contact information to include phone number and email if applicable.
7. All visitors must maintain 6 feet social distance. No food or drink will be permitted during the visit. If a visitor brings non-food items to give to a resident, the items must be in a plastic bag and left on the cart, per facility protocol.
8. Visitors must stay in designated visitation locations.

9. Due to the risk of exposure, holding hands, hugging, kissing or other physical contact is not allowed during visitations. If physical contact occurs between the resident and visitor(s), the visit may be immediately terminated, the resident may be placed in 14 day quarantine (refer to New Admit/Readmit Quarantine Policy) and visits may be discontinued.
10. Visitors who bring children under the age of 12 are responsible for supervising the children and to ensure they comply with handwashing, hand sanitizing, masking and social distancing requirements. Note: children will be included in the limitation to no more than two visitors.
11. Pets will not be allowed during outside visits but will continue to be allowed during window visits. Visitors who bring pets are responsible for supervising the pet(s) during a visit and are responsible for any associated sanitation requirements. Consult with the facility prior to bringing a pet and follow the CHCC's policy regarding pets.

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

Visitation Denials: CHCC can deny outdoor visitations if we believe the circumstances pose a risk of transmitting COVID-19 in the facility because the resident or visitor does not comply with infection control guidance; or the resident or visitors is at risk of abuse/harm.

Phase 1 of Safe Start for Long Term Care plan states outdoor visits allowed:

1. Total of 2 visitors per resident per day (including children); under controlled conditions with all precautions taken including use of face masks, appropriate hand hygiene and social distancing.
2. CHCC will follow the Outdoor Visitation Guidance for Long-term Care Settings Safe Start Plan.
3. CHCC may use discretion to be more restrictive, where deemed appropriate, through internal policies and in conjunction with the local health jurisdiction (Whatcom County Health Department).

Phase 2 of Safe Start for Long Term Care plan state outdoor visits allowed:

1. Under controlled conditions with all precautions taken including use of facemasks, appropriate hand hygiene and social distancing.
2. CHCC may limit the number of visitors for each resident.
3. Facility will follow the Outdoor Visitation Guidance for Long-term Care Settings Safe Start Plan.
4. CHCC may use discretion to be more restrictive, where deemed appropriate, through internal policies and in conjunction with the local health jurisdiction (Whatcom County Health Department).

Refer to Safe Start for Long Term Care plan for visitation guidance in **Phase 3** and **Phase 4**.