

 <p><i>Little Sisters of the Poor</i> <b>JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE</b></p>	<p><b>POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b> <u>Title:</u> <b><i>Infection Control Visitation Program</i></b></p>
<p><u>Department:</u> All Departments</p>	<p><u>Date Initiated:</u> August 2020      <i>Rev 08/07/20</i></p>

## POLICY

The facility will begin visitation for residents, families and resident representatives while ensuring safety and adherence to infection prevention strategies to minimize any potential spread of infection. This will be done in accordance with all state and federal guidance for the prevention of COVID-19.

The following information is provided by the Department of Health.

## PURPOSE

To promote and enhance resident quality of life by implementing visitation and to combat psychological impacts of isolation from family and representatives while mitigating the risk of COVID-19 resurgence in the community.

## CRITERIA

As per NYSDOH, facilities in **Phase 3 regions may resume limited visitation and activities beginning July 15, 2020 and only under the following conditions:**

- A. The facility is in full compliance with all state and federal requirements, state 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 NHSN.
- B. The facility has protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staff teams, to the extent possible, to deal with COVID-positive residents and non-positive residents.
- C. The facility has completed the NY Forward Safety Plan and submitted a copy of the complete plan to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov. The facility must retain a copy of the plan at the facility where it is accessible and immediately available upon request of the Department or local health department.
  - The plan must clearly articulate the space(s) to be used for visitation (outdoors and indoors) including the number of visitors and residents which could be safely socially distanced within the space

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- D. The absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or residents as reported to the Department on the HERDS and staff testing surveys and as reported to the NHSN for a period of **no less than twenty-eight (28) days**, consistent with [CMS FAQ's](#).
- E. Adherence 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. Resident monitoring must include daily symptom checks, vital signs, and pulse oximetry.
- F. A copy of the facility's formal visitation plan is posted to their public website and broadcasted via email or social media to provide visitors with clear guidelines for visiting and to announce if and when visitation is paused due to an increase in the number of residents and/or staff with confirmed positive COVID-19 diagnosis.
- G. Limited visitation, including, but not limited to, family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations will be permitted.

### PROCEDURE

1. The facility will implement **Limited Visitation**, including, but not limited to, family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP).
2. Current COVID-19 positive residents, residents with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period will not be eligible for visits.
3. **Location:**
  - a. Facility visitation will be conducted in an outdoor area, weather permitting.
  - b. In inclement weather such as high heat, or heavy rains and as facility space allows, visitation will be allowed inside, in a well-ventilated space with no more than ten (10) individuals who are socially distanced and wearing a facemask or face covering while in the presence of others. This may include residents visiting each other.
  - c. At this time, visitation will be strictly prohibited in resident rooms or care areas. Exceptions may be considered by the facility in cases of end-of-life care or comfort care.
4. **Visitation hours and Scheduling:**
  - a. Visitation hours must be by appointment only, lasting for thirty (30) minutes at most at any one time. Any visitor who comes to the facility without setting a schedule will not be allowed visitation. Visitation hours will generally be scheduled as follows: 11am, 1pm and 4pm.

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- b. Visitation must be scheduled with the Activities Director at 347-329-1800 ext. 207 or at [bxactivities@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:bxactivities@littlesistersofthepoor.org).
  - c. No more than 10% of the residents (3) shall have visitors at any one time and only two (2) visitors per resident will be allowed at any one time.
5. The facility will assign staff to assist with the visitor screening, transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

### **6. Screening and Documentation Log:**

- a. The facility shall screen all visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access. Visitation will be refused if the individual(s) exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or do not pass the screening questions.
  - i. Screening shall consist of both temperature checks and screening questions to evaluate potential exposure to COVID-19 which shall include questions regarding international travel or travel to other restricted states designated under the Commissioner's travel advisory as per NYS EO 205 (See <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>).
  - ii. The facility must maintain the screening log onsite and make it available upon the Department's request.
- b. A Visitor Documentation Log will be kept by the facility onsite in an electronic format for potential contact tracing purposes (see *Contact Tracing Policy*) as per NYSDOH and shall include the following information:
  - i. First and last name of the visitor;
  - ii. Physical (street) address of the visitor;
  - iii. Daytime and evening telephone number;
  - iv. Date and time of visit;
  - v. Email address, if available; and
  - vi. As per NYSDOH, a notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.

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- 7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Facemask / Face covering, Hand Hygiene and Social Distancing**
  - a. PPE will be stored in clean covered storage areas. The facility shall also have a designated PPE station and shall ensure that there is adequate PPE and alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), consisting of at least 60 percent (60%) alcohol, located in said area.
  - b. The facility shall post signage regarding facemask utilization and proper hand hygiene and shall use applicable floor markings for social distancing.
  - c. Residents, if medically tolerated, must wear a facemask or face covering which covers both the nose and mouth during visitation.
  - d. Visitors must wear a facemask or face covering which covers both the nose and mouth at all times when on the facility premises. Masks or face coverings will be provided by the facility as needed.
  - e. Visiting areas will have easily accessible ABHRs for residents, visitors, and staff.
  - f. Facemasks or face coverings may not be shared and shall be replaced once soiled or damaged.
  - g. The facility shall ensure that trash recipients are available for disposable items. Reusable face coverings shall be placed in designated hampers and cleaned separately by staff.
  - h. Visitors must maintain social distancing and must not hand gifts or any items directly to the resident during visitation. These items may be left at the front desk and will be given to the residents by the staff after observing proper infection control procedure.
8. Residents will also be assisted to go outdoors with staff supervision weather permitting. The appropriate infection control and safety and social distancing requirements must be maintained.
9. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
10. 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.
- 11. Communication to Family/Representatives:** The facility shall provide and post a fact sheet outlining Visitor Expectations including appropriate hand hygiene and face coverings. The fact sheet will be provided upon initial screening to all visitors.
- 12. Environmental Services:** The visitation area will be properly cleaned and disinfected before each scheduled visitation. (*See Policy and Procedure for COVID-19 Disinfection and Standard Cleaning Protocols for further information*)

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13. The IDT Team will review the Visitation Program and monitor for any needed adjustments and report to QA Committee as needed.
14. If the facility falls out of compliance with requirements listed in this policy, the nursing home shall immediately halt visitation and inform the NYSDOH. In addition, the Department can halt visitation at the nursing home at any time due to community or facility spread of infection.

**\*\*\*THE VISITATION PROGRAM POLICY MAY CHANGE IN ACCORDANCE TO  
FEDERAL, STATE AND CMS GUIDELINES.\*\*\***

### **REFERENCES**

New York State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2020, July 10). *New York State Department of Health Announces Resumption of Limited Visitation to Nursing Homes*. Retrieved from New York State Department of Health:  
[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/health-advisory\\_nursing-home-visitation\\_final-7.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/07/health-advisory_nursing-home-visitation_final-7.pdf)