

INDOOR VISITATION PLAN DURING COVID-19

POLICY

The Little Sisters of the Poor, Jeanne Jugan Residence, will arrange indoor visitation of Residents with family members or personal representatives. The following measures are taken to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during indoor visitation. Restrictions on visitation do not apply to compassionate care situations or essential visitors or personnel as defined by Mayor's Order 2020-063.

https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/LTC_Indoor_Visitation_2021-04-06.pdf

PURPOSE

To promote Resident quality of life and social engagement within the phased reopening guidance and recommendations of CMS, CDC, DC HEALTH and the Mayor.

PROCEDURE

1. Requirements for initiating indoor visitation:

Outdoor visitation is still preferred over indoor visitation when possible.

- a.) The Home must be participating in the weekly staff testing and achieve a 90% compliance of staff for at least 2 consecutive weeks.
- b.) The Home must be routinely submitting a COVID--19 line list to the Healthcare Facilities Investigation Team daily, Monday-Friday, including holidays.
- c.) Indoor visitation for Residents can only be allowed if more than 70% of the Residents are fully vaccinated and if the DC positivity rate is less than 10%.
- d.) The Home must not be undergoing testing related to confirmed or suspected outbreak.
- e.) If the Home has a single positive case in Residents or staff, starting or continuing indoor visitation must be approved by the DC Health COVID-19 Healthcare Facility Team. At a minimum, the following criteria must be met:
 - Controlled transmission of COVID-19 within the facility (see 'Visitation during outbreaks' section below)
- f.) The Home must have a 14-day supply of all personal protective equipment (PPE) that would be necessary to respond to an outbreak without dependence on the public health stockpiles.
- g.) The Home must submit a plan to the DC Department of Health which includes all the requirements or items listed below, and details regarding the space identified for visitation.
 - Indoor visitation must occur according to the Home's current and most recently approved plan.



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2. Prior to initiating Indoor visitation:

- a.) Residents and their families will receive notification that indoor visitation will be taking place in the Home. They will also be notified immediately by phone if visits need to be paused, and when they can be resumed. Notification will also include:
 - Precautions that will be taken to keep Residents safe: wearing mask, social distancing, and hand hygiene.
 - Expectations and requirements for visits. (See notification letter.)
- b.) Visitors will be required to schedule an appointment for a visit by phone through the Receptionist. Scheduling must be done at least 24 hours in advance to ensure that the Home is prepared to welcome the visitors, as well as assuring that staff is available to ensure that safety precautions are monitored and followed. Only two (2) visitors are allowed for each Resident. These visitors must be from the same household. Children under the age of 18 must always be accompanied by an adult and must be able to comply with face covering and social distancing requirements. The duration of the visit is limited to 30 minutes.
- c.) Visitors are not required to be vaccinated or tested prior to their visit but are strongly encouraged to do so.

3. At the time of indoor visitation:

- a.) Upon arrival, visitors will proceed to the front entrance where they will be asked to use the available hand sanitizer and proceed to the sign-in area to provide the following information which would be needed in the event contact tracing is required:
 - complete name
 - full Home address
 - phone number
 - email address if available
 - name and room number of Resident they are visiting

These records will be filed and maintained for 30 days and will be kept at the reception desk where they will be readily accessible at any time if requested for contact tracing.

- b.) All visitors will be screened for symptoms utilizing the Visitor Screening Questionnaire. Their temperature will be taken digitally or by a member of the Home's staff. Visitors will be denied entry if:
 - they are found to be symptomatic
 - they had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days
 - they are under quarantine after non-essential travel to a high-risk State or following international travel to a level 3 country as defined in the DC Health Travel Guidance.



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- they do not comply with precautions (e.g. masking, social distancing, etc.).
- c.) Visitors must be able to comply with wearing a cloth face covering or mask during the entire visit (masks with a valve are not allowed) and maintain a 6-foot distance from the Resident.
- d.) Physical contact between visitors and Resident can occur if all the following criteria are met:
 - The Resident is fully vaccinated
 - The Resident is wearing a well-fitting face mask
 - The Resident and visitor properly perform hand hygiene immediately before, and immediately after touching each other.
- e.) If food items or packages are brought for the Resident, they should be marked with the Resident's name and left with the receptionist who will assure their safe delivery to the Sister or staff member on the Resident's Unit.
- f.) The visiting area is located on the entrance level adjacent to the lobby. Signage will be posted to indicate its location. There are 2 entry doors, one designated for the visitors and one for the Resident. There is a window to allow extra ventilation if necessary. Placement of furniture in the room will be marked to assure the required social distancing. There will be signage to identify where the visitors and Resident should be seated.
- g.) A designated staff person will escort visitors to the visiting area. The Resident will then be brought to the site by one of the Sisters or a staff member. The Resident will be masked and the staff member who will bring the Resident to the visiting area will monitor the visit from outside the room.
- h.) Visitors must remain in the designated area throughout the scheduled visit and will not be allowed to remain on-site and visit other Residents. Visits cannot take place in a Resident's room unless the Resident is unable to be brought to the indoor visitation area. All the indoor safety precautions also apply to a room visit. A staff person must accompany visitors to the room.
- i.) Visitors may not use Resident facilities. There are designated restrooms for visitors near the lobby.

4. After indoor visitation:

- a.) Following the visits, the visitors and Resident will use the hand sanitizer before exiting the visiting area.
- b.) Home staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect the visitation area including all furniture and high touch surfaces such as light switches, door handles, window latch, etc. This process of disinfection must be completed before the next visit is allowed.



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- c.) All high touch surfaces throughout the Home are routinely disinfected at least once a shift and more often if needed.

5. Notification of possible COVID-19 exposure

- a.) The Home will provide all visitors with contact information and instructions for notifying the Home should they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of their visit.
- b.) Also, the Home staff will notify visitors if there is an outbreak on the Unit where their loved one resides, should such an event occur within 14 days of their visit. A recommendation will be made to the visitors to seek testing because of possible transmission of the coronavirus during the visit.

6. Visitation during outbreaks

- a.) When a new case of COVID-19 among Residents or staff is identified, the Home must immediately begin outbreak testing, implementing DC Health recommendations, and suspend all visitation (except that required for compassionate care and under federal disability rights law), until at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed.
- b.) Visitation can resume based on the following criteria:
- If the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas (e.g., Unit) of the Home, then the visitation can resume for Residents in areas/Units with no COVID-19 cases. However, the Home should suspend visitation on the affected Unit until it meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.
 - If the first round of outbreak testing reveals one or more additional COVID-19 cases in another area/Unit of the Home, then visitation should be suspended for all Residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated), until the Home meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.
- c.) If subsequent rounds of outbreak testing identify one or more additional COVID-19 cases in other areas/Units of the facility, then the Home must suspend visitation for all Residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated) until:
- The Home has undergone at least two rounds of facility-wide surveillance testing in Residents and staff (spaced 3-7 days apart) for 14 consecutive days AND identified no additional cases in staff and Residents.
- d.) Clear and appropriate signage and other markers will be placed and posted in areas undergoing outbreaks (e.g. closed doors, floor markings, etc.) to ensure visitors do not inadvertently enter the outbreak area.

