

Dear Residents, Families, Resident Representatives and Visitors,

We are so pleased to report that both CMS and the NYDOH have revised the nursing home visitation guidelines. For the first time in over a year and a half, visitors are allowed to visit our residents without making an appointment. However, the same principles of COVID-19 infection control apply. This includes the following:

- All visitors entering the facility must be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Please take your temperature and complete all the questions on the screening form when entering the building before visiting.
- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility.
- Please wear a mask at all times and use the hand sanitizer located throughout the facility.
- Visitors must limit movement in the facility and stay in the visiting area or resident room. If there is a roommate in the room, please visit in the lobby or library on the second floor remembering to always maintain 6 feet from other visitors.
- Visitation is allowed in the resident's room if there is no roommate in the room. If the resident and the visitor are fully vaccinated and the resident and visitor are alone in the resident room, the resident and visitor may choose to have close contact without a mask or face covering.
- Visitation is allowed indoors and visitors no longer need to make appointments. Our suggested visiting hours are 11:00am to 6:00pm daily. Should you need to visit at alternate times, please contact nursing to make arrangements. We do however, need all visitors to sign in and out at the nurse's station so that we are aware of who is in the building and can disinfect the visiting area once you have completed your visit.

While we are pleased about the new visitation allowances, we must all remain diligent to the core principles of infection prevention. While not recommended

to visit during an outbreak and/or visit residents who are on transmission based precautions or quarantine, visitation is allowed. In these cases, visitors will be educated as to the risks of visitation before visitation is allowed. Any visitor that cannot adhere to these core principles of infection prevention shall not be allowed to visit or will be asked to leave the facility. Although visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated in order to visit: we strongly encourage visitors to be vaccinated; doing both of these things will better protect your loved ones.

While all of this is very good news for our residents, again we ask that everyone continues to follow all the guidelines as set out by the NYDOH and the CDC so that we can all remain safe. We thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

Bethel Nursing Home